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Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk December 11, 2011

EAST KENT EDITION

Issue no 481

Crossing set for Olympics nightmare as drivers hunt 'easy option'

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

KENT'S most notorious congestion hotspot could become gridlock hell during the 2012 Olympics as drivers are forced away from London's Blackwall Tunnel and to the Dartford Crossing.

Fresh fears were sparked by the release of traffic plans by Transport for London (TfL) showing that an approach lane to the Blackwall Tunnel, both northbound and southbound, will be reserved for VIPs, athletes and media representatives, called 'Games lanes'.

It will mean severe congestion between 6am and midnight, in the run-up to and during the Games, which run from July 27 to August 12, raising concerns the Dartford Crossing will become an alternative option and subsequently attract thousands more vehicles than previously expected.

TfL plans show that for traffic travelling northbound to the Blackwall Tunnel from the Sun in the Sands roundabout, lanes will be reduced down to two, while Games officials will travel on the outside third lane.

But on the final approach – when the road reduces to two lanes – 'Games lane' traffic will have to merge in with public traffic, potentially causing a bottleneck ahead of the already often-congested entrance to the tunnel.

A similar system will be used on the northern approach to the tunnel for southbound traffic, but when the 'Games lane' stops, public traffic wanting to travel left towards the A13 will have to merge with Games vehicles. If Games vehicles want to travel through the Blackwall Tunnel they will have to merge across.

The predicted gridlock could force

Continued on page 2



MONROE IN KENT

ON LOCATION: My Week With Marilyn tells the story of her time in Kent – SEE INSIDE

POLITICS

KCC confirms MD to leave

THE group managing director of Kent Council Council, Katherine Kerswell, left her job on Thursday night.

The shock move comes a month after County Hall officials denied rumours she was leaving her £197,000 a year post only just after a year since she started.

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ECONOMY

Euro doomed, claims ex-MP

FORMER Kent MP and Treasury Select Committee member Jacques Arnold says the euro is doomed and Chancellor George Osborne's austerity measures are the only way forward for the UK.

He goes on to claim Tory policies can bring Britain back from the brink.

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SPORT

Hess relishes Pulis meeting

GILLINGHAM fans are eagerly awaiting next month's FA Cup tie, which will see former manager Tony Pulis bring his Stoke City side to Priestfield.

Gills boss Andy Hessenthaler played for Pulis and is looking forward to taking on one of the biggest influences on his career.

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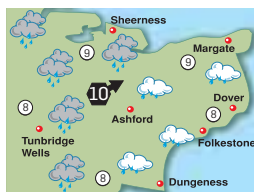
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TODAY: Cloudy with patchy light rain and drizzle. Freshening winds. Max temp 6-9C (43-48F). **TONIGHT:** Rain easing to leave clear spells. Min temp 2-5C (36-41F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	11.12	6.3	23.37	6.4
Margate	-	-	12.17	4.5
St Mary's	04.50	5.4	17.08	5.3

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 9C	Min 6C
Tuesday	Max 11C	Min 4C
Wednesday	Max 9C	Min 6C
Thursday	Max 9C	Min 4C
Friday	Max 9C	Min 6C
Saturday	Max 10C	Min 4C

Information supplied by **MeteoGroup**

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TRANSPORT

Grain airport could be the end for Heathrow

By Ed Hill

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THE architect behind the £20 billion airport scheme for the Isle of Grain says if it gets the go-ahead it would spell the end for Heathrow.

But Lord Foster's latest comments are likely to enrage those in Kent most affected by the proposals, after saying a key benefit would be that planes coming into the proposed new site would not be flying over highly populated parts of London.

Instead, it is likely flight paths would take aircraft over parts of north Kent.

He also further enraged conservationists by saying loss of wildlife habitat could be combated by building a new nature reserve off the coast of Essex.

Lord Foster revealed the details at a lecture at the University of Oxford.

His designs include a £20bn four-runway airport with annual capacity for 150 million passengers, a £20bn high-speed orbital rail line around London, and a new £6bn Thames barrier crossing which would combine tunnels with technology to generate electricity.

And his vision would eventually see Heathrow closed as an airport to create a



THE FUTURE? An artist's impression of how an Isle of Grain airport would look

new community to the west of London.

Lord Foster argued Heathrow was fast becoming redundant, and was one of the few airports in the world where planes flew over a city on their final approach, citing the example of a BA flight from Beijing that crashed in 2008 because its fuel pipes had frozen, just as it was about to land at Heathrow.

He said: "If you compare the number of people exposed to risk and noise at Heathrow, an accident is a statistic just waiting to happen."

His figures showed the number of people exposed to risk and loud noise at Heathrow was more than 700,000, compared to airports like Madrid and Amsterdam where it was six times less.

Lord Foster said Heathrow had no potential for expansion meaning it would lose out to growing markets in the developing world because it could not accommodate direct flights, adding: "What we can do with this is leapfrog problems because we would be building on a site that is not constrained."

Closing Heathrow, he claimed, would mean the potential to create a new Sileni Valley to the west of London. Heathrow would be the beneficiary as a new community combining commercial and economics zones, entertainment parks and a new "green lung for London".

The architect claimed the Heathrow site, valued at around £12bn, would pay for more than half of the cost of the new airport. He also rebutted reasons for rejecting the Isle of Grain as the location for new airlines.

On the issue of birdlife Lord Foster said a new nature reserve would be created off the east coast of Essex to make up for the loss of habitat.

Of the 12 listed buildings on the Isle of

Grain he said half could be part of a new urban area around the airport and the other half – currently on the site of the new runways – could be relocated.

He was also dismissive of the dangers surrounding bird strikes and the unexploded bombs on the sunken SS Montgomery nearby.

But his estuary airport ideas have been criticised by Kent Wildlife Trust.

Chief executive John Bennett said: "The Government is saying that it can't allow environmental and social considerations to fetter the re-growth of a strong economy. We believe the well-being of the people and natural communities is the responsibility of the Government now as much as it ever has been."

Medway Council reminds opposed to the plans for the Isle of Grain, in addition to the much discussed Boris Island project – a scheme promoted by Mayor of London Boris Johnson which would see reclaimed land in the Thames Estuary used to create a new airport hub.

However, a former mayor of Medway has become one of the few voices in the county to welcome the plans.

Dai Liyanage, who served in 1999, said the economic benefits should not be dismissed out of hand.

Fears 'Games lanes' will divert drivers towards blackspot

Continued from front page

motorists to use the already-congested Dartford Crossing, which is expected to handle some 300,000 vehicles a day during the Games – a figure which could rise as more and more frustrated drivers opt to use the Kent crossing rather than the London route.

Activist James Willis, who launched the Honk if you Give a Hoot campaign to see tolls scrapped at Dartford, said he was concerned about impact.

"This would be a good opportunity to trial the removal of the barriers and tolls and it would be in the Government's favour to do this during the Games," he said.

"I'm looking to launch a petition and I'm talking to people in Essex to push this forward."

"The planned tolls hike that was postponed was common sense by the Government, but more needs to be done."

Tory MP for Dartford, Gareth Johnson, said the only way to get over the problem of congestion was to remove the tolls.

"I don't mean just during the Olympics, this is not something that should happen temporarily," he said. "The tolls need to be scrapped completely."

"I welcomed the Government's decision to suspend any increase until after the Olympics, but the way to reduce congestion is to get rid of tolls – people stopping to hand

over money is the problem."

London Mayor Boris Johnson has put pressure on the Government to suspend tolls during the Games.

He stressed that the Dartford Crossing would be an "obvious" alternative route for drivers who would usually use the Blackwall Tunnel to travel in and out of London, and suggested charges be temporarily scrapped.

He said: "During the Olympic Games we are going to need to consider alternative ways of working or travelling and heading for the Dartford Crossing will become a major consideration for drivers in the east of the city."

"That is why I have asked

the Government to give serious thought to suspending the charge to use the crossing during the Olympics.

"It would be a considerable act that would be greatly appreciated during the Games."

A planned hike in charges from £1.50 to £2 last month and a further increase to £2.50 due next April have been postponed by the Government until after the Games.

But the London Mayor said it would be "even better" if they were suspended altogether during the Olympics.

London's transport commissioner, Peter Hendy, said the Olympic Route Network, which involves the Games lanes, was vital to ensuring all

athletes, officials, media and others working at the Games got to their events on time.

A Highways Agency spokesman said it was working closely with delivery partners to make sure traffic was kept moving during the Games.

"We are aware the Dartford Crossing could be a pinch-point and are considering what the likely extra demand on the crossing during the Games will be and what appropriate action we can take."

"Already though, we know the Olympic Delivery Authority is planning extensive park-and-ride facilities for the Games near Ebbsfleet and Lakeside, which should help reduce pressure on Dartford."

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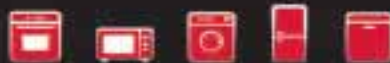
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TRANSPORT

Passengers told £16m rail heating means an end to winter train chaos

By Marijke Cox

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THE chaos seen on Kent's rail network during severe cold snaps could soon be a thing of the past after the Government announced a £16 million package to deal with the problematic third rail.

Funding will go towards heating the line, which supplies electric power from the track onto the train, instead of through overhead cables as in other parts of the country.

The cash boost was prompted by problems seen during severe weather, when the third rail freezes, stopping the power getting through and causing trains to grind to a halt.

In the past three winters, major disruption has swept the rail network, with passengers left stranded and workers unable to get to their desks, costing the Kent economy tens of thousands of pounds each day.

Nationally, travel disruption cost individuals and businesses £280m a day.

As part of a £38m programme to prepare the rail network for bad weather, the Government has invested £16m in sorting out problems with Kent's third rail.

And commuters thinking they will have to wait until next winter to see the benefits have been told they can breathe a sigh of relief as the equipment has already been installed at 85 per cent of locations and is expected to be rolled out completely by January, 2012.

Network Rail is also expanding its fleet of snow clearance and ice treatment trains.

Transport minister Justine Greening visited Tonbridge to make the announcement, recognising the county as one of the hardest hit by travel disruption in recent winters.

"Severe cold weather will always cause some disruption, but the Government has worked with our industry partners to minimise the impact on passengers and businesses in future," she said.

"Both airports and the railway are much better prepared than in the past and our current salt stock in Britain is over 2.7 million tonnes.

"I am announcing £16m of investment in our rail infrastructure to help keep trains moving in snow and ice.

"But I'm also asking the industry to raise its game and communicate better with passengers in severe weather."



Picture: ED HILL

Last winter, Southeastern came under fire for failing to communicate sufficiently with passengers, leaving them on platforms with no information or updates on timetables.

MP for Rochester and Strood Mark Reckless experienced problems first hand.

"We were being told different things by Southeastern. There is nothing more annoying than waiting at a station not knowing what's happening," he said.

Southeastern vowed to improve communications with its passengers after calls by angry commuters to strip the operator of its franchise.

A spokesman said: "We will continue to work with Network Rail as they install the third rail heating to help us run our services on their track," he said.

UPGRADE: A £16 million package to reduce the impact of snow on our rail travel has been announced

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Dickens back on film

VISITORS to Oare Marshes nature reserve near Faversham this week were confronted by 19th century stove pipe hats, 'mutton chops', and bonnets, after the watch house was transformed into a Victorian blacksmith's forge for a new movie of Charles Dicken's classic, *Great Expectations*. The film stars Ralph Fiennes, Helena Bonham Carter and Robbie Coltrane. Next year is the 200th anniversary of Dickens' birth, and the author lived much of his life in Kent.

➔ Christmas fires threat

MEDWAY and Strood firefighters are warning people about the dangers of unattended cooking after a number of kitchen blazes. Risk reduction manager, Gary Stanford, said: "We have had 10 house fires in the past month and cooking fires accounted for eight of those. Fortunately none of these have been serious but we don't want people to find their festive period is ruined because their house has been badly damaged or, worse still, a loved one has been seriously hurt."

➔ 1970s sex abuse hunt

POLICE are hunting for a man from Gravesend or north Kent in connection with an investigation into the sexual abuse of three young boys in the late 1970s in the East and West Witterings area. The boys, who were aged between 5 and 8 at the time, were allegedly sexually assaulted on several occasions by the man who had been invited to stay in their family home as a guest. Det Con Mark Burgess said: "We are seeking information about a man called Kevin Collins who worked in the Witterings as a gardener and odd-job man during the mid to late 1970s."

OLYMPICS

2012 Games torch bearers named

THE first would-be Olympic torch bearers have been told they will have the chance to carry the famous flame.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) made conditional offers on Thursday to "inspiring" people across Kent and the South East to carry the Olympic flame for 300m next summer during the 70-day Olympic Torch Relay.

One of the first to be offered a place was Matt Short, 21, from Tonbridge.

At 16 he was diagnosed with the rare bone cancer Ewing's sarcoma, and while being treated he decided to set up the charity Ewing's Sarcoma Research Trust. He has since recovered and spends his time running the charity and has also set up a football coaching scheme for children in Tonbridge.

Matt said: "I can't believe I have been offered the chance to carry the Olympic flame. It will be a once in a lifetime opportunity and something so special. I hope my story will show people what can be achieved if you set your mind to it."

Those offered a place now have to accept the date they have been given to take part.

Kent will play a major part in the build-up to the Games with the flame travelling through 37 towns and villages, stopping overnight in Dover and Maidstone on July 18 and 19, just a week before the start of the Games.

The flame will also be taken on a paralympic cycle around the circuit at Brands Hatch, near West Kingsdown.



INSPIRATIONAL: Matt Short coaching football

Other areas on the route include Tunbridge Wells, Thanet, Folkestone, Deal, Sandwich, Canterbury, Faversham, Chatham, Gillingham, Rochester, Gravesend, and Sevenoaks.

LOCOG chairman Lord Coe said: "Thank you to everyone in the South East who took the time to nominate a friend, colleague or family member. We are one step closer to giving hundreds of people across the South East their moment to shine during the Olympic Torch Relay."

"The sum of the individual stories of our torch bearers will show the world the Olympic spirit is alive and well right across the South East."

More than 60,000 nominations were received across the UK and an average of 115 people a day will carry the flame 8,000 miles around the UK before it arrives at the Olympic Stadium on July 27 for the lighting of the cauldron at the Opening Ceremony.

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POLITICS

KCC chief leaves £197k job just weeks after denials by County Hall

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THE group managing director of Kent County Council Katherine Kerswell is leaving her post at County Hall.

Just weeks after the authority vehemently denied the £197,000-a-year chief was leaving, staff received emails on Thursday night from council leader Paul Carter and Ms Kerswell confirming her departure.

She paid tribute to staff and said she believed KCC was capable of dealing with challenges faced by the public sector.

Cllr Carter said elected members would discuss proposals to remove the post of managing director at a meeting this Thursday.

In a statement, KCC confirmed Ms Kerswell would leave at the end of December to pursue new interests.

It said: "Katherine Kerswell has done an exceptional job at Kent reshaping our approach to service delivery and recasting our overall management arrangements.

"She is a first-rate public servant with tremendous skills at making large organisations work well.

"Her management direction has helped produce significant savings to the council and confirmed Kent's position as a leading authority.

"In just 18 months we have shifted from an approach that was highly departmental to one based on the whole organisation working together for the people of Kent.

"We now expect our cabinet and chief officers to work more collaboratively together. This

way of working has already resulted in improved services to Kent's residents and lower costs to Kent's taxpayers.

"Now that these arrangements have begun to bed in, Katherine has discussed with the leader, Paul Carter, the next phase for Kent and for her.

"She is very keen to continue working at the leading edge of organisational and service change through investigating new models of service delivery.

"Katherine will therefore be leaving the council by the end of the calendar year to pursue these new interests.

"KCC now has the chance to review its management and governance arrangements and these will be considered at the county council meeting on December 15.

"The decision will also enable Katherine to have the chance of taking a further bold step in her distinguished managerial career."

Ms Kerswell joined the council in July, 2010, as group managing director following the departure of chief executive Peter Gilroy.

Last month, rumours she was leaving were strongly denied by KCC, despite a senior council source telling this newspaper she had not been seen at her desk for more than a week, and hinting that a compensation package was being discussed by senior officials.

A statement from KCC at the time said she "is and remains the managing director" and dismissed rumours as "completely untrue". It said: "We would like to make it clear that Katherine Kerswell is and remains the managing director of KCC. It is completely untrue to suggest that she has been dismissed or put on garden leave."



GOODBYE: Katherine Kerswell is to leave County Hall, even though she only arrived last year

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Mice cost shop £5,000

THE owners of a Gravesend foodstore were fined after dead mice and droppings were found under shelves where bread was stored. The "serious mouse infestation" at Lituanica in Milton Road ended with a court fine of £5,000 and a bill for £840 costs for breaking hygiene regulations. Council officers found a packet of sunflower seeds that had been nibbled by mice. The company which owns the shop, Food 4U UK Ltd pleaded guilty to two offences.

➔ Calculator ban adds up

PLANS to stop children using calculators in schools until they have learned basic maths have been welcomed in Kent. It is proposed children will only be allowed to use a calculator once they have a thorough understanding of basic maths and are able to recite times tables. Kent County Council's Cllr Mike Whiting, said: "I welcome this common sense approach. It is vital children are equipped with basic maths skills and are not reliant on technology."

➔ We're a generous lot

ANTI-poverty charity ActionAid says Kent is the third most generous area of the country, based on the numbers of children in poor countries sponsored by local people. More than 1,760 people from the county sponsor over 1,930 children living in poverty across Africa, Asia and South America – raising more than £401,500 every year. Surrey came top in the generosity table, followed by Lancashire.

CRIME

'No new evidence' so hammer killer Stone denied case review

HAMMER killer Michael Stone has lost a bid for a judicial review of his case.

Stone, who murdered Lyn, 45, and Megan Russell, wanted permission to challenge the ruling last year, but the Criminal Cases Review Commission decided there was no new evidence to justify sending his case to the Court of Appeal.

Stone was found guilty of the 1996 attacks in Chillenden in 1998, and was convicted a second time three years later at a retrial.

Lawyers for Stone wanted permission to seek court orders forcing the CCRC to think again, but on Thursday the bid was refused by Lord Justice Hooper and Mr Justice Singh.

The drug addict was also found guilty of the attempted murder of Megan's sister Josie, who is now 24.

Stone, from Gillingham, attacked Mrs Russell and her



MURDERER: Michael Stone

daughters with a hammer as they walked in a country lane after a swimming gala. Megan was six and Josie was nine.

He is serving three life sentences and has been told he will spend at least 25 years in jail.

Josie was seriously hurt in the attack, and her long battle

for recovery captured the public's imagination.

Josie and her father Dr Shaun Russell returned to the Nantlle valley in Gwynedd, where the family had lived before moving to Kent.

Earlier this year Kent Police refused to re-open the Russell murder case despite "compelling" evidence that Stone was not the man responsible.

The move came after Stone's solicitor Paul Bacon said there was "compelling evidence" that killer Levi Bellfield – jailed for life for the 2002 murder of Milly Dowler – was actually the man responsible.

Stone family members and other supporters also claim the prisoner who the killer confessed to while on remand had admitted to being an "accomplished liar", and that he only knew the specific details of the crime reported in that morning's newspapers.



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News

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DISABILITY

Disabled facing 400 per cent rise in cost of blue parking badges

BLUE Badge disabled parking in Kent is about to change – and get more expensive.

In an attempt to bring in better controls and stop the badges being abused, the Department for Transport has told councils to make changes to the way they are issued.

The badges will only be given out following a council assessment, which will no longer require a GP report. However, the charge for issuing a badge will rise from £2 to £10 from January 1.

The Government says it wants to make the Blue Badge system self-funding, although the current price changes will still not cover costs.

At present people are charged £2 to make an application whether they are successful or not. The new £10 charge will only apply to those whose application is successful.

The system to allow disabled drivers to park in normally restricted areas was introduced in 1970. A Blue Badge lasts for up to three years before holders have to re-apply.

People who do not qualify for a full badge can have an assessment to see if they qualify for a discretionary badge if they have trouble walking long distances.

Kent County Council cabinet member for adult social care and public health, Cllr Graham Gibbens, said: "The cost of providing a Blue Badge has risen significantly in the last 40 years, while the charge has stayed the same. The DoT is also determined to modernise the system.

"This is only fair, as it would be quite wrong for those who do not need a Blue Badge to be taking advantage of the scheme; particularly at the expense of those who are less mobile and more vulnerable without them."

Michael Claughton is chairman of Ashford Access, which campaigns on disabled mobility issues. He said: "We are still absorbing the implications. I would like to know from our members who are disabled audit officers if they have any major concerns. The price is an issue and I would also like to know the GPs' view."

"I have had no direct consultation from KCC in regards to this. As Access is one of the major consultants on all matters to do with issues surrounding Blue Badges it would have been nice to be informed. I think it would have been useful for them to have feedback from our members."

For queries about Blue Badge applications, go to kent.gov.uk/bluebadge.

ENTERTAINMENT

Thrills and spills galore as new theatre stages its first panto

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

ANTICIPATION was high in the Marlowe Theatre audience on Tuesday for the first pantomime to be staged in the new theatre.

The production of Cinderella has a cast with plenty of musical theatre experience, leading to a highly professional and toe-tapping show for the audience.

EastEnders star John Partridge particularly got a chance to flex his singing and dancing muscles as Prince Charming; transforming what can often be a dull part into one of the highlights of the show.

He was ably supported by the rest of the cast. Stephen Mulhern's interaction with the children in the audience as Buttons was faultless, and Sue Devaney gave the role of the fairy godmother a quirky northern charm. Ben Roddy took the opportunity to grab as much of the comic potential in the role of Dandini as possible.

It has been two-and-a-half years since Canterbury's pantomime has



HE'S BEHIND YOU: The popular bench scene is back in honour of Dave Lee

been staged in a theatre rather than a tent on the town's ring road.

The improved facilities, which cost more than £26m, means greater comfort for the audience and a show that's spectacle is greatly enhanced – leading to some impressive surprises for the audience.

One regular element missing

from the production was Dave Lee.

Due to ill health the much-loved local comic was unable to appear in this year's production. Shakespearean actor Siôn Tudor Owen stepped into his role of Baron Hardup.

However, fans of the bench routine will not be disappointed, and the act was performed as a tribute

to Lee and, as ever, got the young audience screaming in excitement.

Theatre director Mark Everett said: "The larger auditorium and improved stage facilities have given us the opportunity to pull out all the stops and give a bigger and better show than ever before."

This week the theatre also thanked its corporate sponsors who helped to raise £4.2m towards the cost of the new theatre.

John Partridge and Kate Quinell, who plays Cinderella, met representatives from the 29 companies at a special breakfast and presented them with certificates to recognise their support.

The founding corporate partners were the first to join the scheme which aims to establish closer links between the Marlowe and the local business community.

Judging by the reaction of the audience, this year's show is exactly what is required to attract more visitors to Canterbury and help boost the town's economy.

■ **For more news and sport see** www.yourcanterbury.co.uk.

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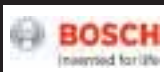
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CRIME

Paedophile pair convicted over sex with animal

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A 45-YEAR-OLD woman has been jailed for 16 months for having sex with a dog.

Tracy Woolridge, also known as Tracy Scamp, was found guilty of two counts of sex with an animal and having sex with a girl aged under 13.

She was sentenced at Canterbury Crown Court and given a sexual offences prevention order limiting her access to children and dogs.

Woolridge, of Downs Road in Canterbury, pleaded guilty to all three offences.

Gary Underhill, of Duck Lane, Canterbury, also admitted offences relating to child sex assault, indecent images and bestiality and was sentenced to four years in prison by the court.

The 35-year-old was put on an extended licence for a further four years and given a sexual offences prevention order,

controlling his access to the internet, children and dogs for an indefinite period.

The couple were arrested following an investigation by Kent Police earlier this year. Officers searched a property at Duck Lane on June 22, and seized computer and camera equipment belonging to Underhill.

His computers were examined by officers at Kent Police's Digital Forensics Unit and were found to have indecent images and movies of children ranging between levels one and five, in addition to four images of extreme pornography.

These images included children and animals.

Analysis of Underhill's computers and an investigation by the Public Protection Crime Unit at Kent Police led officers to execute a further warrant at The Close, Downs Road, Canterbury.

Woolridge was arrested at this address and was identified as a person featuring in child abuse and bestiality im-

ages from Underhill's computers.

Both suspects pleaded guilty to all offences against them on September 23.

The judge Adele Williams, said Underhill had carried out "depravity of a high degree".

"You delude no-one but yourself, you plainly have a perverted and depraved sexual interest in children," she said.

Det Insp Matthew Long from Kent Police's Public Protection Unit said: "There is absolutely no excuse for downloading, viewing and taking indecent images of children.

"Underhill indulged in his crimes for his own gratification. He positively encouraged sexual acts between an adult and a child, and also acts of bestiality.

"Woolridge has taken part in extreme acts of bestiality and the sexual abuse of a child. I am pleased that we have been able to prevent any further abuse being inflicted, viewed or downloaded by these two people."



DEPRAVED: Tracey Woolridge and Gary Underhill are now behind bars

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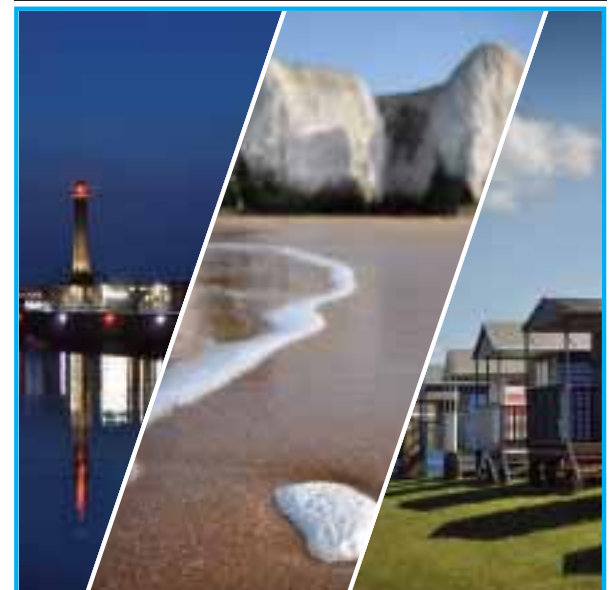
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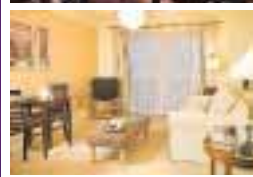
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News

INVESTMENT

Cameron's £180m 'catalyst'
to boost former Pfizer site

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

PRIME Minister David Cameron has unveiled a multi-million pound package of support to boost life science firms in the wake of Pfizer's shock departure from Kent.

Ten months after the drugs giant announced it would be leaving the site in Sandwich, the Government has revealed a £180 million fund to support new medical breakthroughs.

Universities and small and medium-sized firms will be able to bid for funding to push forward with bright scientific ideas.

The Government said the money would help bridge the gap between an idea in a laboratory and the point when a drug can be invested in by the market.

Science minister David Willetts, who visited Kent when George Osborne announced Enterprise Zone status for the former Pfizer site – now called the Sandwich Discovery Park – said the move would encour-



MEDICINE MAN: David Willetts

age investment in life sciences.

After Pfizer's shock announcement it would be closing its research and development facility, concerns were raised over the future of the UK's pharmaceutical industry.

But the latest support package has boosted confidence and it is hoped firms will take advantage of both the benefits of the Enterprise Zone and the new £180m funding.

Mr Willetts stressed the importance of the new Discovery

Park, which has 650 Pfizer staff still working there, despite fears they would be among 2,400 made redundant.

"Our life sciences industry is a vital driver of growth and employs tens of thousands of people," he said.

"But it is rapidly changing. We need to keep ahead of the game and make the UK one of the best places for companies to invest in innovation.

"To do this we need to create the right environment for scientists and business to work together and translate research into new, cutting-edge technologies and medicines."

The funding was described by David Cameron as a "catalyst" to support the next "brilliant medical breakthroughs".

He said: "We can be proud of our past – but we cannot be complacent about our future. We've got to change radically – the way we innovate, the way we collaborate, the way we open up the NHS."

■ For news and sport visit www.yoursandwich.co.uk.

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News

HEALTHCARE

Ambulance crews move to new high tech depots

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

A major transformation of how ambulance services are organised in the county has begun.

The South East Coast Ambulance Trust (SECAmb) has introduced what it describes as 'Make Ready Depots' in Ashford and Paddock Wood.

Staff from other stations have been gradually moving over to the state-of-the-art facilities during the last two weeks.

Under the Make Ready system vehicles will be serviced and stocked at the new centres.

Ambulance crews will spend the rest of their shifts situated at strategically located 'ambulance community response posts' around the county.

Some of these will be at existing ambulance stations, while others will be in new locations.

SECAmb's programme director of estates, Geoff Catling said: "These new centres will ensure our clinical staff are spending more time doing the job they are



DEEP CLEAN: Crews get busy

trained to do – treat patients.

"These are fantastic facilities providing the very best procedures for cleaning, restocking and maintaining vehicles.

"Staff and contractors have worked extremely hard to make them a reality and they should be immensely proud of what has been achieved."

At the centres the vehicles will be regularly deep-cleaned and swabbed for the presence of micro-organisms including MRSA and C Diff. Each vehicle

is fully stocked to a standardised specification with equipment checked and serviced regularly. To reduce the risk of vehicle breakdowns, on-site mechanics will be on hand to undertake routine checks and maintenance.

The new centres are the first of 12 which the Trust wants to open across the South East over the next five years.

The Ashford depot also includes a HART team trained to deal specifically with incidents involving dangerous chemicals.

Following the opening of the new centres, the Trust has started the formal process for marketing and selling the old ambulance stations which are no longer needed.

Part of the formal process for starting the sales involves the Trust declaring a station is surplus to requirements.

However, the declaration will also make clear where the Trust intends to maintain a presence on a site for the use as an ambulance community response post.

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News

ENVIRONMENT

'Sheer stupidity' of borehole approval amid fracking fears

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

FEARS have been raised over the possible use of 'fracking' in east Kent after county councillors approved plans to drill an exploratory borehole to test for shale gas.

While planning applicant Coastal Oil and Gas Ltd insists it will be a simple test of coal and shale, activists have warned it could be the first step towards the use of the controversial fracking extraction method, which is believed to have caused two minor earthquakes in Blackpool earlier this year.

The technique is a process of drilling for natural shale gas involving blasting water and rock-dissolving fluids underground at high pressure to break apart rocks and release gas.

Protestors claim it causes contamination of water supplies, flammable tap water, greenhouse gas emissions, and can lead to earthquakes.

This week Kent County Council's planning committee ap-

proved an application allowing the Welsh firm to use land by the A257 and A256, north of Woodnesborough, to drill an exploratory borehole to test for gas.

Chair of Kent Green Party Stuart Jeffery called the decision "sheer stupidity".

"It is very likely the exploration will lead to shale gas extraction through fracking which will inflict serious and irrevocable damage on the environment, particularly ground water supplies, while ensuring the country's duty to reduce its carbon emissions is missed," he said.

Fracking is already banned in South Africa and France, but has proved popular in parts of America.

A recent report by energy firm Cuadrilla found it "highly probable" shale gas drilling had triggered earth tremors in Blackpool earlier this year.

Protect Kent, the county's branch of Campaign to Protect Rural England, said while it recognised the need for greater energy security and accepted that unconventional fossil fuel

sources may need to be exploited until sustainable energy generation is developed, there should be a ban on fracking until measures to control risks are put in place.

Campaigns manager Andrew Ogden said: "These risks are not minor. In addition to the unquantifiable effect of the tremors on overlying properties, there is the danger that groundwater could become polluted with the hydraulic fluids used. In east Kent this groundwater is contained in the chalk strata overlaying the shale measures, and provides most of our drinking water."

Protect Kent said the way forward was for the Government to draw up a code of practice for shale gas exploration and exploitation that would provide a level of control against the risks.

KCC said Coastal Oil and Gas Ltd would have to submit a new application if it wanted to carry out fracking.

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News

ENTERTAINMENT

Real setting gave 'lift' to film of secret week with Monroe

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

KENT may seem a far cry from the glamour of Hollywood, but for silver screen icon Marilyn Monroe it featured in one of her many escapades during the golden era of movies.

And now her short and relatively unknown visit to the county in the summer of 1956 has been revealed in the new Simon Curtis film, *My Week with Marilyn*.

The film, starring Brokeback Mountain actress Michelle Williams as Monroe, brings to life the memoir of film-maker Colin Clark, who spent a week alone in England with the blonde bombshell.

Monroe, one of Hollywood's most celebrated stars, stepped foot on British soil for the first time in 1956, on honeymoon with her husband, playwright Arthur Miller, to shoot *The Prince and the Showgirl* alongside Sir Laurence Olivier.

At the same time, a young Colin Clark, brother of Tory MP Alan Clark and son of author and art historian Lord Kenneth Clark who lived in Saltwood Castle in Hythe, started work as a lowly production hand on set.

Forty years later he recounted his experiences on set in a memoir entitled *The Prince, the Showgirl and Me*.

But one week in his account was missing.

Years later, in follow-up memoir *My Week With Marilyn*, he revealed the week he spent alone with Monroe, taking her to the countryside, including a trip to his parents' home of Saltwood Castle.

The stunning building is still the home of by Jane Clark, widow of flamboyant Tory MP Alan Clark, and she agreed to let producers recreate the setting of Monroe's visit for the film, which stars Kenneth Branagh and Dame Judi Dench.

Award-winning production designer Donal Woods said using the real setting gave the film a "lift". He said: "I looked at this beautiful castle and thought 'I can't believe he lived here'. Filming at the real location gave the scenes a lift."

"It placed Colin in the world he was really in at that time and allows the audience to see the actual place where Monroe visited. It also showed that aside from the beautiful castle he grew up in, he had a father and mother who loved him, something Monroe didn't have."

Adrian Hodges, who wrote the screenplay, said Monroe's clashes with Olivier, anxiety about her marriage and insecurities about her talent made her vulnerable. She yearned to escape her troubles and when she learned Clark came from a well-connected background, she realised he could provide her access to places beyond her reach. "She wanted a friend," he said. "It was an innocent week and at the same time charged with emotion and intimacy."



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News**KOS CAMPAIGN**

Top tips that could save your life and will save you money

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk



WITH temperatures dropping, it's time to put into practice some simple tips which could mean the difference between life and death.

As part of the Archant KOS Media-backed Surviving Winter appeal, Kent Community Foundation (KCF), which is running the campaign, has teamed up with Swale Heating to produce top tips on keeping warm while saving the pennies.

It comes as figures show the growing problem of fuel poverty – when a household spends more than 10 per cent of its income on gas or electricity bills – where some 39,000 pensioners are suffering across Kent and Medway.

The main drive of the Surviving Winter appeal is to invite well-off households to donate some or all of their £200 winter fuel payment to poorer elderly or vulnerable people.

The payment is given tax-free by the Government to

every household with a person aged 60 or over.

KCF chief executive Carol Lynch said: "The winter fuel payment has been cut from last year and fuel prices have gone up. Fuel prices are unlikely to decrease in the foreseeable future so we urge older people to make sure they know what financial help is available, as well as making energy efficiency improvements in the home."

"So far the appeal has brought in donations of nearly £3,500."

"As the cold weather kicks in, we are expecting many groups to apply for funding on behalf of vulnerable older people, and so would encourage anyone who really does not need some or all of their winter fuel payment to 'recycle' it to help others."

Swale Heating's sales director Mathew Edwards said: "It is terrible to think people's lives are at risk because they are worried about heating their homes."

Top tips for reducing bills

and staying healthy include:

- Insulate walls, close curtains at night, shut doors in rooms you are in, fix draughty windows.

- Keep radiators clear of furniture so heat can circulate.

- Use a hot water bottle or electric blanket at night, but never both together.

- Set your heating timer so it comes on half an hour before you wake up and half an hour before you get in at night. Lag the hot water tank.

- Lag the loft and switch off lights. Replace old light bulbs with an energy saving bulb.

- If your boiler is over 15 years old consider switching to a new energy-efficient one.

- Turning your thermostat down by 1°C could cut heating bills by up to 10 per cent.

- Don't leave appliances on standby and don't leave appliances on charge unnecessarily.

- Most detergents clean clothes at 30C, saving money on water heating and energy.

■ **Donations can be made at www.kentcf.org.uk/surviving_winter.html.**

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News

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LONDON 2012

Garden of England's chance to blossom in Olympic spotlight

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

THE Cabinet minister in charge of the Olympics has said the Games are the perfect opportunity for Kent to show off its "extraordinary natural landscape" to the world.

Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport, Jeremy Hunt, visited Kent to take part in a tourism summit linked to the Olympic Games and promote school sport.

His visit began at Canterbury Cathedral where he addressed business leaders on the opportunities available in the run up to 2012 and beyond.

He said: "Kent companies have already won significant contracts related to the Games, but this is the opportunity for tourism to be in the spotlight. It's not just the Games themselves, it is other events such as the torch relay which will be passing through many Kent towns such as Margate, Canterbury and Dover and the cultural the Olympiad.

"It's about using this moment to tell the world about the extraordinary natural landscape we have and the tourist attractions, and turning that interest in Kent to people actually coming to visit the county themselves."

Around 600 companies in the South East have won contracts linked to the Olympic Games, such as Palmstead Nurseries in Wye, which has supplied many of the plants used in the Olympic Park.

It is estimated the contracts from the region's companies have been worth around £1 billion to the economy.

The minister announced there would be a major tourism marketing campaign beginning next year. Part of the promotion drive is a 20.12 per cent discount scheme that tourism businesses can sign up to.

Visit Kent chairwoman Amanda Cottrell said: "We have warmly welcomed the Government's recognition of the importance of tourism as a job creator and a key sector to drive economic growth. The county has demonstrated for the last 10 years the success of public/private partnerships in creating and sustaining the conditions in which our tourism can flourish."

Mr Hunt's visit also included a trip to Medway Park in Gillingham alongside Lord Coe who is chairman of the London 2012 Organising Committee.

They hosted a summit on the School Games competition, and around 1,300 schools have signed up to the scheme in the South East.

The county hosts the Paralympic cycling at Brands Hatch and nine pre-Olympic training venues will be used by foreign teams, including Pegasus Gymnastics in Maidstone and Tonbridge Judo Club.

Lord Coe said: "The Schools Games is a fantastic opportunity for young people to be inspired by sport ahead of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It is great to see so many schools already signed up."

Mr Hunt also presented Gravesend Cricket Club with a cheque for £43,000 to develop their facilities. The money came from Sport England which is improving sport facilities to coincide with the Games.

MAIN MEN:

Lord Coe (left) and culture minister MP Jeremy Hunt exchange a joke during their visit to the county



Picture: PAUL JERREAT

POLICE

New top cop is announced

PAUL Brandon has been confirmed as Kent Police's new assistant chief constable after holding the position on a temporary basis since April.

His appointment was confirmed by Ann Barnes, chair of Kent Police Authority, which oversees the hiring and firing of the senior officers.

Mr Brandon joined Kent Police in 1992, and most of his experience has been working in tactical and frontier operations.

Mrs Barnes said: "I am confident this change will lead to an increase in the levels of public satisfaction with the force's performance and our new assistant chief constable will play a vital role in helping to deliver the authority and force's savings and targets for the next two years."

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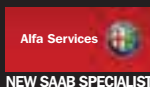


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imate coming-of-age romance.

The whole world loves Dirty Dancing – from 80s box office smash, the first movie to sell one million videos, number one single and album sales of 42 million worldwide, Dirty Dancing is truly iconic entertainment.

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- a) Patrick Swayze
b) George Clooney
c) Tom Cruise

To enter, text KOS followed by DANCING and your answer then your name and email address to 80058 e.g. KOS DANCING C JOHN SMITH john.smith@anyemail.co.uk.

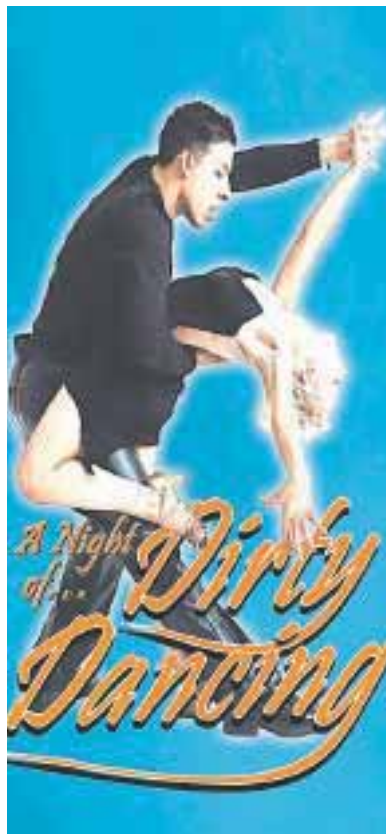
Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate. Winners will be selected from all correct entries. The promoter's decision is final.

Please see terms and conditions at www.kentnews.co.uk. Please note if you should enter after the closing date of December 20, 2011, your entry will not valid, but you still may be charged.

SMS services are provided by Velti DR Ltd, SE1 8ND, telephone 020 7633 5000.

Alternatively, you can enter by post, send your answers on a postcard to Dirty Dancing competition, Archant KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SS.

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KENT REMEMBERED



DISASTER AT SEA: In 1667 the Dutch navy inflicted a humiliating defeat on the forces of King Charles II

Three military defeats that changed history

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

TALES of Britain's greatest military victories have been repeated through the centuries, from Wellington's defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo to the Battle of Britain.

But while the country can boast a list of successes, it can also hold its hands up to some of the most significant military defeats.

In a new book, Britain's 20 Worst Military Disasters: From the Roman Conquest to the Fall of Singapore, by historian John Withington, Kent is highlighted as the setting of three major downfalls.

One of those featured is the first Battle of Medway in AD43 when an invading 40,000-strong Roman army fought with twice as many Ancient Britons after the Romans attempted to cross the river, believed to be close to where the M2 bridge now crosses the Medway.

Mr Withington said: "The Britons were taken by surprise when a group of enemy auxiliaries managed to swim across the water and started attacking their horses."

"Taking advantage of the confusion, a force of legionnaires, led by the future emperor Vespasian, also managed to get across."

"The Britons still resisted doggedly, and, very unusu-

ally for a battle of that era, the fighting went on into a second day.

"For a time the outcome was in some doubt, as the Britons managed to capture a number of Roman officers, but in the end, the invaders prevailed, and the foundations were laid for four centuries of Roman rule in Britain."

The Ancient Britons also suffered at the hands of the Saxons and in 455 were defeated at a place called Agaeles threop – believed to be Aylesford near Maidstone.

"The Saxons, under Hengest and Horsa, defeated the Britons. Horsa was killed, but Hengest, took over 'the kingdom'," said Mr Withington.

"Two years later, the Britons were defeated again in one of the most decisive battles of the struggle – this time at Crecganford, which some historians think was Crayford."

Hengest and his son Aesc "slew 4,000", and the Britons "forsook Kent and fled to London in great terror".

In the county's third great military disaster, Mr Withington said there was no dispute over where it happened.

"In 1667, peace negotiations were underway to end the Anglo-Dutch War, but while King Charles II was running down our defences and laying up warships, the Dutch were planning a major coup," he said.

"Early in June, the Dutch Admiral De Ruyter detached part of his force and sent it up the Medway."

"First they captured Sheerness, then they broke through sunken ships and a chain across the river that was supposed to delay their progress."

Mr Withington said the defenders did not have enough gunners and they could not prevent the enemy getting to Gillingham Reach, where some of the Royal Navy's greatest ships lay at anchor, manned by skeleton crews.

Three warships were set alight and two others captured, including the 82-gun Royal Charles – the pride of the Navy, the ship that had brought Charles II back from exile.

"It was, considered the diarist John Evelyn, 'a dishonour never to be wiped off', and perhaps Britain's greatest ever naval humiliation," said Mr Withington.

"More of Britain's worst military disasters happened in Kent than in any other county," he added.

"No other county suffered more than one."

Britain's 20 Worst Military Disasters: From the Roman Conquest to the Fall of Singapore is published by the History Press at £13.49.

■ For all the latest news and sport headlines see www.yourmedway.co.uk.

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OPINION

Helping to ease fuel poverty

Thousands of Kent residents could be better off thanks to a government energy-saving scheme. KCC's David Brazier explains how you could save

WE ARE all faced with rising fuel bills, indeed the most recent figures from the Department for Energy and Climate Change show energy prices shot up 11 per cent in the year to October.

This comes as households across the county bear up to the economic squeeze on living conditions that doesn't look like lifting any time soon.

Given these trying times Kent County Council is promoting a government-backed scheme run by the Energy Savings Trust – a charity offering free, impartial and independent advice – that makes it easier for people to keep warm and save money at the same time.

Under this scheme, important energy-saving measures, such as cavity wall and loft insulation, can be professionally installed in a few hours at heavily discounted rates, or even free under certain circumstances.

Insulating an average house

can lead to savings of £250 a year – but this can rise to as much as £450 a year in some cases.

These measures work and many across the county are already benefiting. In the last three years, 27,500 Kent households have received cavity wall insulation and 29,500 Kent households have received loft insulation as a result of this scheme. This equates to about eight per cent of homes in Kent.

Contrast this with the latest figures from the Department for Energy and Climate Change, which show that 11 per cent of Kent households are thought to be living in 'fuel poverty' – that is they spend more than a tenth of their income on energy – and you can see there are plenty more who would benefit from the grants on offer.

Everyone is entitled to a discount whatever their income. Some will benefit more than others – in particular elderly

and disabled residents and those on income related benefits, who may get some help, possibly even new boilers, for no charge at all.

To tap into this visit the Energy Savings Trust's easy-to-use Grants and Discounts Database, which provides information about a range of energy savings deals. By entering a few details about your home and where you live, residents can find out what they may be eligible for.

This drive to increase energy efficiency and reduce fuel bills is a key element of Kent's environment strategy, 'Growing the Garden of England: A strategy for environment and economy in Kent', which blends the county's economic needs with those of the countryside, landscape and heritage.

Developers these days design in tremendous levels of energy efficiency on new builds. But it is important to look at the im-



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Much of the work generated will be carried out by local firms

provements we can make to older homes because 80 per cent of the housing we will occupy within the next 80 years already exists.

Much of the work generated by the scheme will be carried out by local businesses – bringing an additional benefit to local suppliers and small business.

The funding will end in autumn next year, resulting in an increase in prices for measures, so you need to act now. The Energy Savings Trust can also provide a free home energy check. To find out more call Energy Saving Trust free on 0800 512 012, or online at www.energysavingtrust.org.uk. For more information on Kent County Council's work to keep residents warmer for less this winter, visit www.kent.gov.uk/homeenergy.

■ **Cllr David Brazier is Kent County Council deputy cabinet member for environment, highways and waste.**

KOS COMMENT

Suspend tolls to stop Olympic-sized jams

IT SEEMS a shame to pour cold water on the excitement of the Olympics, but for the many people who need to get to their desks during that two weeks it could become a hellish time.

Not only will they have to battle the normal rush hour traffic, but also the additional thousands of vehicles crossing at Dartford to avoid huge delays at the Blackwall Tunnel.

The simplest option would be to open the tollbooths and allow free-flowing traffic – it's not rocket science, it's just common sense. Either the Government has none or is too tight fisted to suspend the tolls even for a fortnight.

Matt will be one of the heroes of 2012 Games

THE moving story of cancer patient Matt Short who was chosen as a torch-bearer shows the positive side of the Olympics for this country.

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New Christmas crib at St Margaret's Church, Hothfield
by Hedley Grenfell-Banks

IMAGES OF KENT

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Answer lies with Manston

FOR the life of me I can't see why it would be necessary to spend billions building a new airport either on the Isle of Grain or on an artificial island in the Thames estuary, when Kent has a ready-made facility at Manston.

This airport can already cope with jumbo airliners; it has a dual carriageway road running alongside its southern boundary leading to the M2 motorway and London, and the high-speed rail track from Ramsgate to London is only two miles away.

East Kent MPs are always calling for more investment in Thanet, and with the imminent closure of Pfizer at Sandwich there will be hundreds of people looking for work.

The alignment of Manston airport means that with the prevailing winds being from the south west, take-off flight

paths would be mostly over countryside and with the latest technology of quieter airplane engines, landing flight paths would be mostly over the sea, and less of an intrusion on the eastern borders.

What an opportunity this would be to inject some life into the area, and at far less cost than starting from scratch with fanciful 'islands' in the Thames estuary. Just look at the tourism opportunities – seaside, countryside, Canterbury, Rochester, etc, all within an hour's travel.

We live about halfway between Manston and Heathrow or Gatwick, and I for one would be only too pleased to travel into the county instead of facing the M25 with all its traffic problems.

John Tice, Bredhurst

We must all defend seas

I WOULD urge your readers (and all of our local politicians)

to ensure they are fully aware of Defra's plans for our local seas to become Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) under the Marine and Coastal Act 2009.

The proposal states quite innocuously: "If the zones go on to be given protected status following a public consultation it could lead to restrictions being placed on the activities permitted on the site."

I am afraid the risk is much more serious than that. If the MCZs are established there will be no fishing allowed there and all other seaborne activities will be affected, too.

I believe these proposals are the result of governmental failure to address the problem of EU-imposed fishing catch quotas and the resultant wasteful discard of perfectly good fish from commercial fishing boats.

Instead of dealing with the real issue, there is to be a Defra-led focus on recreational anglers (a much easier target) in order to 'protect our fish

stocks' by imposing MCZs.

This is gesture politics at its worst and is frankly laughable.

I doubt if the total catch made by every single recreational angler in the entire country on a typical day would equal one single haul of a super trawler's nets.

Deal to Dover, Dover to Folkestone, and all of Hythe Bay, are on the list to become MCZs, potentially within the next two years. This would make virtually the entire area off limits for recreational fishing.

The imposition of MCZs will impact not just on fishing, but also on pleasure boating and even recreational kayaking.

Recent TV reports from existing trial areas showed that it is even against the law just to drop anchor in an MCZ never mind to fish there.

The potential impact on our local economy is massive. The sea is not some kind of static aquarium, it is a living, working environment that directly and indirectly

supports many hundreds of local jobs and provides relaxation and hobby opportunities for thousands.

We need to protect it and respect it, but this is not the way to do so.

If readers really want to defend our seas, they should make sure that they let the politicians know how they feel.

T Raymond, Hythe

End this 'eat or heat' cruelty

A COUPLE of items from KoS need commenting on.

Firstly, as the Government recently gave many millions of pounds of our money to help the starving in East Africa, will they now reinstate that part of the winter fuel allowance they callously took away after getting into office, so the elderly, infirm and less well-off in this country don't have to choose between 'heat or eat'.

Secondly, with water companies asking us to be

careful with water use, isn't it about time the Government put a stop to foreign-owned companies like Coca Cola and all the others that waste countless billions and billions of gallons of water every year producing all those rubbish drinks that are completely unnecessary and so wasteful.

Roger Arnold, Herne Bay

Building for a better future

I WAS fascinated to see Cllr Adams' letter in last week's paper in which he condemns the Coalition government's policy on house building.

His views accurately reflect my own findings...

I am attempting to start up a business in Dartford and potential new skilled staff have great difficulty finding housing in the area.

There is little affordable housing, mortgages are very difficult to find and good quality rented property is snapped up within a day of coming to market while costing and arm and a leg.

I believe it is hampering the recovery in the UK, and certainly in this area of Kent when building new houses could be such a valuable stimulus to the economy.

I hope the powers that be will listen – then we can get the economy moving again.

Graham Hines, West Kingsdown

No trust in this Coalition pair

SURELY it is time to change both Cameron and Clegg.

Time after time Cameron has lied to the people by making promises he knows he is not going to keep.

The last one was a referendum if there were changes in the EU treaties. Now he is telling us it won't affect our country.

There is nothing that Sarkozy and Merkel do that does not effect this country.

Nick Clegg has all but destroyed the Lib Dem party and Cameron seems hellbent to do the same to the Tories.

His own party must see just how untrustworthy he is making their party and should rein him in or get rid of him.

It's the people that have to believe and trust him and I am afraid the majority don't.

RE Tucker, Sheerness

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Business Week

Your business is our business

The euro is doomed, says former Tory MP Arnold

THE Autumn Statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne last Tuesday revealed the awful scale of our predicament.

Throughout the years since the millennium, the West has lived way beyond its means, financed for government and individuals by borrowing – from the Chinese trade and Arab oil surpluses, and from the pension funds.

It was a complete illusion.

Former prime minister Gordon Brown told us he had abolished 'boom and bust'. At the height of the boom he was borrowing £30 billion a year, splashing out on state sector pay, Blair's wars and every manner of welcome facilities – schools, hospitals and so on.

Over 13 years he built in a base spending load we cannot afford, and if you add the costs of the inevitable bust – reduced tax revenues and increased social-security costs – you end up with the whopping deficit we are faced with.

It has fallen to Mr Osborne to delicately unravel this unaffordable structure before the roof falls in. Our annual deficit in government spending, where for every four pounds spent, one is borrowed, is up there with Greece, Ireland, Portugal and Italy, and we are potentially in danger of suffering the same fate.

The Chancellor's 'Plan A' has convinced the markets, who are holding fire for the present. The cutbacks being made are inevitably unpopular with those they affect, and the recent public-sector workers' strikes underline that.

We should all pause to think about what would happen were George Osborne's budgets not to convince the markets; interest rates rising to Italian levels (8 per cent and rising), hitting our mortgages and businesses' borrowing costs, let alone the cost of the national debt mountain.

The pain would far exceed that caused by the cutbacks being carried through.

And that even presupposes that we would be able to finance the debt, and not go bust.

Fortunately for us, we did

Jacques Arnold, who was a speaker at KOS Media's recent Business Week Live 2011, was Tory MP for Gravesham for 10 years until 1997, when he was also a member of the Treasury Select Committee. Before joining the House of Commons he set up and ran companies in Latin America and has since returned to the world of business. Here he shares his thoughts with **Nick Ames** on the state of the economy and the problems facing the eurozone.



not join the euro. William Hague's 'Save the Pound' campaign in 2001, striking a chord with public sentiment, convinced that arch euro fanatic Tony Blair that it was too electorally dangerous to join.

That, combined with Gordon Brown's determination not to go along with Tony's desires, saved the pound. Originally called 'Little Englanders', the campaigners against joining have proved far-sighted.

We have been free to set our own economic and financial policies. The pound daily finds its own level to reflect our relative performance – the pressures allowed to express themselves in the pound's exchange rate.

The countries of the euro, by

contrast, have stopped up the pressure valves, and over the 10 years' lifetime of the euro, the pressures have now built up to extraordinarily dangerous levels, with no means of relieving themselves.

The Continentals indeed find themselves in a burning house without exits. The euro was a house built on political idealism where economic reality was dismissed as a distraction.

Economic reality has come back to bite them.

The euro is doomed, with all attempts at bailouts and rescue funds destined to fail.

The Germans – the only nation to have benefited from the euro by having their exchange rate held down (a

deutschmark) would have soared away) enabling them to export and achieve a boom – are refusing to finance such arrangements, or even to allow European institutions to do so.

Even if they did, they would be merely sticking a plaster on the wound and not addressing the underlying illness; the euro flies in the face of economics and could only be sustained by an undemocratic central oligarchy, which contradicts the European nations' modern democratic and cultural traditions, and their economic needs.

Far better for them to work to divide up the eurozone into separate currencies, reflecting the economic realities of each, many of which would involve a return to national currencies.

For instance, a new Greek drachma, upon being launched at an exchange rate of one drachma equalling one euro, would promptly devalue by between 40 and 60 per cent. Their national debt, denominated in the new drachma, would be similarly devalued.

What difference would that make to the 'haircut' of 40-60 per cent currently proposed under the euro rescue plan? At least it would result in Greece again becoming competitive, able to export and to attract the tourist trade to their wonderful country.

The woes of the eurozone have attracted the world's attention. It has given Britain breathing space to carry through the plan to get our government spending, and national debt, back under control after Labour's spending binge.

George Osborne's budget plan for now has won the confidence of the markets, even to the extent of sterling showing signs of acting as a reserve currency, exemplified by the fact British borrowing costs have now fallen below the Germans'.

This may not last for long, so we must grit our teeth and carry it through, supported by the detailed measures to help business and job creation detailed in the Autumn Statement. It is a sobering thought that if the euro fanatics take their currency over the brink to catastrophe, our task will be made infinitely more difficult.

6699

The cutbacks being made are inevitably unpopular with those they affect, and the recent public-sector workers' strikes underline that...

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Set in 150 acres of countryside between Dover and Canterbury,

Duke of York's combines traditional values, a military ethos and outstanding academic results with modern teaching. Its sports facilities include a pool, gym, running track, rugby and cricket pitches, a shooting range and outdoor assault course.

Duke of York's is proud of its pupils' academic achievements and its GCSE results are double the national average: in 2011, more than 90 per cent of pupils gained five or more GCSE grades A*-C or equivalent, including English and maths, with more than 95 per cent passing at A-level. More than 90 per cent of the school's students

choose to go on to university.

With a focus on leadership, self-discipline, respect and teamwork, along with ceremonial parades, the Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme and Combined Cadet Force are at the heart of the school. As Duke of York's is full boarding, your children will never be bored as they are kept busy with more than 70 clubs and activities from which to choose.

Kay Pott, wife of Major Mick Pott MBE of the Parachute Regiment, who has a son at the school, said: "The school has been fantastic – we are over the moon with the way they've brought our son on, we can't praise them enough. We feel

he's done better academically than he would have at another school. I really value the school's ethos.

They instil respect for yourself and others, and build up self-esteem so the children become confident young men and women."

The school, which became an academy last year, has been awarded £24.9m to transform boarding houses and teaching facilities. In 2010, it received £9.5m from its academy sponsor, the Ministry of Defence, to build a sixth-form boarding house.

The academy's specialities are science, sports, music and outdoor education.

MIDKENT COLLEGE

Consider tuition fees an investment

MUCH has been written about the Government's decision to allow the trebling of university tuition fees to a maximum of £9,000 per year.

With all the angry headlines, protests and political in-fighting which followed last year's controversial announcement, it is understandable that some young people may have been put off applying for university.

But as one of the largest further- and higher-education and training providers in the South East, MidKent College is keen to inform young people everywhere of the facts before making such an important decision.

"The scariest thing I've heard recently was from a student who told me he wanted to go to university but couldn't because his dad told him he couldn't afford the debt," said college careers adviser Matt Bannister.

"There are so many things wrong with that, one of which is that young people should have a say in whether or not an investment in university education is worth it in the long run.

"Parents will understandably want to help their children out with their finances, but paying back the loan is ultimately the student's responsibility and it is important everyone understands exactly how the new system works before any decisions are made."

From September 2012, universities in England will be allowed to charge up to £9,000 per year for undergraduate courses, raising the cap from its current level of £3,375.

However, the fees will not have to be paid upfront and will instead be repaid by the student once they graduate and begin working.

The threshold at which graduates have to start paying back their loans is currently set at £15,000, but this will increase to £21,000 under the new system.

Each month, graduates will pay back 9 per cent of their income above that threshold, plus a subsidised interest rate calculated by salary.

Mr Bannister said: "Whether or not the new system is fair is open to debate, but what students need to ask themselves is if this is a long-term investment they are willing to take, and if it is worth their while.

"The word 'debt' is very emotive, and rightly so given the current economic climate.

"However, a student loan needs to be seen as an investment, and young people need to think carefully about what sort of return they are likely to get.

"The earning potential for graduates is still

greater than for non-graduates, and for some people the life experience and self-fulfilment gained from going to university will also make the cost worthwhile."

There are ways to reduce the cost of higher education. MidKent College offers a wide range of higher-education courses for those who decide that the traditional university route is not for them, or who require extra qualifications before enrolling on a full degree course.

Areas in which the college offers Higher National Diplomas (HNDs) and/or foundation degrees include applied chemistry, business, building and civil engineering, information technology, engineering, qualifying to teach in the life-long learning sector, and childhood studies.

There are also plans to offer an HND in sports management and a new Level 6 programme – equivalent to a degree – in business management and enterprise.

Each course has a heavy vocational element to it – giving students a real experience of working life – and is validated by either the University of Kent or Canterbury Christ Church University.

Tuition fees for full-time HE courses at Mid-Kent College for the 2012/13 academic year are £5,700.

MISSION TRAINING

Preparing you for anything

MISSION Training is a modern, dynamic training-provider based in the heart of Kent. It provides training for individuals as well as directly for companies, raising safety standards to thousands of trainees.

Its newly-refurbished training centre in Canterbury offers modern comfortable training rooms that include large TV screens with internet connection, white boards and notepads. Hot and cold drinks are available.

The training centre offers many accredited compliance courses, including fire and first-aid training. Friendly instructors deliver HSE-approved courses while expanding on the realities. Within the training equipment there is fake blood and realistic wounds – role-play is an essential part of training.

The nationally-recognised qualifications delivered include security courses specific to the security industry, enabling individuals to become SIA-licensed, including CCTV, security guarding, door supervision and close protection.

Mission Training also specialises in reducing aggression and violence in the workplace. The conflict-management training is supported by a separate one-day physical intervention module focusing on breakaway and disengagement skills.

Managing director Tony Smith, who operates Mission Training and its sister company Right Guard Security, knows the demands that security staff face today and is able to share his experience with trainees.

Mission Training provides high-level training including weapons handling, unarmed combat and hostile environment preparation at its Czech Republic training centre. Demand is growing throughout the world for highly-trained individuals with protection and firearms experience. Take a look at www.firearm-services.co.uk.

Looking forward to 2012, Mission Training is launching specialist driver-training courses that include a one-day safety improvement awareness course and anti-ambush and evasive tactics.

The courses aim to improve driving safety for any person; however, there are also specialist anti-ambush courses for security and those transporting high-value goods nationally and internationally.

For more details, see www.missiontraining.co.uk or call Mission Training on 01227 768822.

CNCA

Agency leads way in training professional carers

CNCA is Kent's most respected independent nursing and care agency and the leading provider of training for professional care in the community.

Since 1993, CNCA has been providing qualified carers, support workers, residential social-workers, care assistants and companions to the NHS, Social Services, private hospitals and trusts, nursing homes, residential homes, day-care centres and housing associations across Kent.

A key contribution of the agency is its support of adults with learning difficulties, in homes and in the community, so that they can lead as independent lives as possible.

The agency operates 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. It has established a reputation for responding quickly, providing the highest standards in professional care

and exceeding expectation in terms of client satisfaction.

In a changing business environment, CNCA maintains the highest traditional standards but offers innovative solutions to the modern care industry.

It can provide trained, qualified staff at a moment's notice; and it develops flexible long-term programmes that provide clients with the right kind of carers exactly where and when needed.

CNCA has rigorous training induction procedures for its own staff and has established a Training and Assessment Centre to provide in-house NVQ supervision and assessment for all major care disciplines.

Every day it looks to see where it can improve, accepting and understanding its responsibilities. It will act without hesitation to do all that is required and more.

Sometimes people face 'extraordinary' problems in their lives, some expected, others unique situations that occur out of the blue.

What is meant by 'extraordinary' is a problem faced outside the realm of 'ordinary' lives. For instance, a loved one might be enduring some form of physical disability, or a family member experiencing the after-effects of a serious operation; a child might be born with severe learning difficulties, or autism; or, indeed, a parent could have grown too old to safely fend for themselves.

Each situation poses its own problems and difficulties. Each comes wrapped in its own unique circumstances, not only for the family

but more importantly for the person who requires support and care to help them live as 'ordinary' a life as possible.

If you are facing an extraordinary situation, the question is: 'Where do I turn for help?'. The first port of call is usually, and appropriately, Social Services, who will try to help find a solution to your problem.

Unfortunately, many changes are taking place in the care sector and more emphasis is placed on the individual to arrange their own carers.

Herein lies the difficulty and possibly another dilemma for the family. CNCA has been helping people throughout Kent for more than 13 years, supporting families and their loved ones at home with qualified carers and support workers.

All staff undertake rigorous police and other statutory checks, a full induction process that examines both their qualifications and references and undergo regular training designed to keep them one step ahead of requirements.

Once a comprehensive needs assessment is carried out, the appropriate care is delivered and maintained.

CNCA operates a 24-hour service 365 days a year, manned by care co-ordinators who have detailed knowledge of each individual's needs.

Kim Stevens, chief executive officer of CNCA, said: "We are committed to providing the best care services and the best care training in the region."

If you require help, please call 01233 619530, or, if you prefer, email info@communitynursingcareagency.co.uk.

Keep Kent Working!
It's jobs for Kent

Apprentices show sparks of talent

THE talents of two MidKent College apprentices have been recognised at an awards ceremony.

Electrical installation trainees Andrew Harland, 24, from Queenborough on the Isle of Sheppey, and Lewis Gray, 21, from Rochester, came in second and third place respectively at the event organised by training provider JTL.

The apprentices were nominated from 1,500 in the South East and were among just 12 who made the final shortlist for the ceremony at Epsom Downs Racecourse, Surrey.

Andrew received a cheque for £500 for coming second and Lewis a cheque for £300, with both also receiving a shield and glass plaque.

MidKent College's head of construction and building services Stuart Nice, said: "These two students are a credit to themselves, their employers and the college."

"MidKent College and JTL have identified that these talented individuals have the potential to make a major contribution within the electrical industry."

MidKent College is approved by the Skills Funding Agency to offer both apprenticeships and advanced apprenticeships.

Teen trainees get on the right track

TEN young people started with Kent train service company Southeastern as part of the Government's apprentice initiative.

Aged between 16-19, each will be paired with a station manager and allocated to a specific region of the network.

Their 12-month structured development programme includes getting work experience on gate-line, platform and ticket office work, as well as gaining National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) level 2 in customer services.

The apprentices will be supervised and will have station staff 'buddies' helping and guiding them. They will also receive weekly mentoring from their station manager and be completing a work book throughout the year.

Vince Lucas service delivery director said: "We're pleased to be taking part in this apprentice scheme and welcoming these 10 young people to work with us for the year. We expect to learn from them as well as the other way round."

Subsidised apprentice fund creates first jobs

A JOINERS based in Strood has become one of the first Medway businesses to take on a trainee as part of a council initiative to boost apprenticeships.

Totally Bespoke Joinery, on Medway City Estate, has received a £2,000 subsidy to take on an apprentice as part of Medway Council's apprentice subsidy scheme.

The scheme, launched in October, provides small to medium sized businesses with a subsidy of £2,000 to go towards the apprentice's wages, or, if they are over 19, their training costs.

For Brian Wright, 46, who has been running Bespoke Joinery for eight years, it meant he could take on an apprentice. "We have had apprentices before but only short term placements – partly because of the costs" he said.

"For a business like ours, an apprenticeship really is the best way to learn the trade and pick up the skills and techniques. When I heard about the subsidy it seemed like the perfect opportunity to teach the trade and get an extra pair of hands on board."

And their apprentice, Frank Turtle, 18, is now busy learning the ropes.

He said: "I decided to look for an apprenticeship after completing my second year at college studying bench joinery. Doing an apprenticeship is giving me the chance to be in a real working environment and part of a team and, for me, it seemed the best way to learn the trade."

Frank attends North West

Kent College where he is working towards a diploma level 3 in bench joinery one day a week and spends the other four days in the workplace.

"I'm working with bench joiners who have years of experience and can pass on their knowledge and expertise to me and will hopefully stand me in good stead for the future."

Totally Bespoke Joinery employs three full-time staff and specialises in the design, manufacture and installation of bespoke and custom-built timber staircases and fitted furniture.

The council's subsidy scheme has set aside £200,000 for apprenticeships, half of which comes from EU funds, and aims to support up to 90 apprenticeships between now and March, 2012.

The cash is targeted toward helping small to medium sized Medway businesses with less than 50 employees and is aimed at seven specific sectors, including construction and engineering, horticulture, travel and creative industries.

Medway Council's portfolio holder for strategic development and economic growth, Cllr Jane Chitty, said: "We are committed to boosting economic growth here in Medway and this scheme is at the heart of that commitment – offering businesses that extra incentive to take on an apprentice and reap the benefits they can bring."

For more information on the subsidy and how it may benefit your business, email gaps@medway.gov.uk or call 01634 334348.



BENCH MARK: Frank Turtle is one of the first of Medway's subsidised apprentices

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817136.

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Graduate matching scheme in line for national public sector award

JUST one year after it launched, a scheme designed to match graduates with jobs in the county has been shortlisted for a national award.

With hundreds of employers on the books, as well as thousands of students and graduates, GradsKent is putting the two together.

Now recognition of its work has come from the UK Public Sector Digital Awards in the category for best example of commercial innovation.

GradsKent.com is run by Kent County Council and is free to job-seekers. Those who register are sent alerts when new jobs are posted, can access CV advice and receive feedback on unsuccessful applications.

Employers are charged on a sliding scale, or they can choose to register and then run the service themselves.

Alternatively, for an extra charge, they can get help from the three-man team running GradsKent.

Nadia Lawes, who runs GradsKent said: "Graduates come into the workplace with energy and drive, ready to learn and contribute fresh thinking to your organisation."

"The majority of the candidates who are registered are new or recent graduates – but there are also mothers returning to work and mature students."

"We also help students who are looking for their year in industry to find a placement as part of their degree."

Young chefs get taste of the big time

THE county's best young chefs have been named after a live cook off at K College in Tonbridge.

The winners of the Kent Young Chef Awards, run by Produced in Kent, were Alice Browning, 14, from Walderslade Girls' School who clinched the senior title, and Phoebe Icke, 11, from Ashford School, who won the junior title.

The judging panel was made up of Kent restaurateur Richard Phillips, Whiting & Hammond managing director Brian Whiting, head chef of Woods Restaurant in Tunbridge Wells Tommy Ward, and Ian Piper who is manager of hospitality and catering at K College.

Mr Phillips said: "It's been astonishing and amazing to see the level of skills demonstrated during the Kent Young Chef Award final. The bar just keeps on rising which is so exciting to see."

"Skill, energy and thought has gone into producing imaginative and inspired local dishes featuring Kentish ingredients."

Alice Browning impressed the judges with her "novel and technically outstanding" recipe of tea-smoked quail in apricot and ginger glaze, with a quail's egg pasta stack and braised lentils.

She said: "Kent Young Chef Award has been an amazing grounding for me with my ambition to become a professional chef one day. I'm absolutely buzzing about my second win. Cooking really makes me happy. Being part of this great competition has helped me know I'm on the right path and confirms that this is the career for me."



COOKING UP A STORM: Winner Alice Browning

Phoebe Icke's winning dish was rack of Romney marsh lamb with rosemary, shallots and beetroot, which achieved "a great balance of flavours and cooked the lamb to perfection" according to the judges.

Phoebe said: "I'm happy, excited and surprised. It really means a lot to me to win a Kent Young Chef Award. It was very exciting to go and cook in a proper kitchen and take part in this amazing day."

All eight finalists will be heading to one of Richard Phillips' three restaurants in the county for a mini chef experience.

With winners' trophies and bumper hampers for the two winners, everyone went away with a certificate and branded Kent Young Chef Award apron. Produced in Kent will also be publishing the finalists' recipes on the Produced in Kent website on www.producedinkent.co.uk ahead of Christmas.

Climate change project helps girls into maths and science careers

A science, engineering and math project run by the University of Greenwich at Medway, and Walderslade Girls' School in Medway, has been highlighted by the Royal Society.

The climate change project was run by Dr Nichola Coleman, senior lecturer in materials at the university's school of science and Susana Tomaz, head of science at Walderslade Girls' School. They were helped by a postgraduate research student from Greenwich, Nina Hughes.

Pupils designed, built and tested a prototype wind turbine that would light an LED light and demonstrate technology which could theoretically be used to build a wind farm to power Walderslade village.

They also looked at the best location for wind turbines, how much it would cost, and compared it with the large offshore windfarm near Whitstable.

Using recycled materials and solar motors and LEDs, funded by the Royal Society, the pupils

also built and tested water turbines and solar powered cars.

Dr Nichola Coleman said: "The Royal Society, Medway Council, and the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Network have highlighted this project as an example for partnerships between higher, secondary and primary education. The aim is to apply scientific skills to real world challenges and promote careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics to girls."



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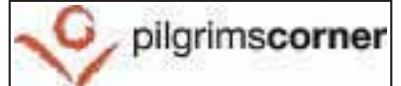
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PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

Career opportunities at MidKent College

Director of Planning and Funding

Ref: DIRP

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As one of the largest further education and training providers in the South East, we offer an extensive range of learning and training services. Our sites are close to town centres, main motorways, and have good public transport links. The College has benefitted from considerable investment resulting in a state of the art campus in Medway and a major building programme at Maidstone. We have a strong, established, professional and progressive Executive team responsible for delivering the highest standards in education. We are now looking for someone to join and strengthen the team as part of our vision for the future. We are interested in hearing from candidates who have strong general management skills at a senior level, change management expertise and a detailed knowledge of the Further Education funding methodology. You must also be able to demonstrate excellent interpersonal and communication skills.

Closing date: Monday 12th December.

For an initial discussion please contact our retained consultant, Ken Pullan on 07725128661 or e-mail your CV to ken.Pullan@midkent.ac.uk Initial shortlisting interviews will be conducted by Ken Pullan. Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed formally on Monday, 19th December.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer



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HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Ashford

COOPER'S LANE, SMEETH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the installation of a new electricity supply cable, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cooper's Lane, Smeeth, on or after 12 December 2011 for up to 2 months or until the works have been completed.

It is planned the road will be re-opened over the Christmas period.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via A20 Main Road (Ashford Road) and Stone Hill.

Please note this date is different from that initially publicised.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984

(ZEBRA CROSSING - A290 WHITSTABLE ROAD, CANTERBURY)

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council, as local traffic authority, and after consultation with the chief officer of police, propose to establish a crossing (Zebra) for pedestrians under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all their enabling powers, as follows:

A290 WHITSTABLE ROAD, CANTERBURY

25 metres north west of the junction with Forty Acres Road.

Dated 11 December 2011

Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager
Kent County Council Highways

AUNT BETSY'S HILL, BRIDGE, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of kerb improvement works to alleviate flooding, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Aunt Betsy's Hill, Bridge, Canterbury, on or after 12 December 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with High Street.

The alternative route is via Dering Road, Union Road and High Street.

FAVERSHAM ROAD, SEASALTER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install traffic safety measures and a footway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Faversham Road, Seasalter, on or after 12 December 2011 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with St Mary's Grove and Lucerne Drive.

There will be no access for through traffic between Whitstable and Graveney using Faversham Road.

The alternative routes are

WESTBOUND via Seasalter Lane, A299 Thanet Way, Staple Street, Staple Street Road, Head Hill, Head Hill Road and Seasalter Road

EASTBOUND via Seasalter Road, Head Hill Road, Head Hill, Whitstable Road, A299 Thanet Way, A2990 (Old) Thanet Way, B2205 Borstal Hill, Joy Lane and Faversham Road.

It is planned the works will be carried out between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm, with the road re-opened outside these times.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dartford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(HAYES ROAD, STONE, DARTFORD) (SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR)

(AMENDMENT NO 12) ORDER 2011 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

The Kent County Council, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 1(1), 2 (1) to 3, 3 (2), 4 (1) and (2) 32 (1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby make the following Order:

1. The Kent County Council (Borough of Dartford) (School Keep Clear) Order 2011 shall have effect as though -

PROHIBITION OF STOPPING ON SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR MARKINGS BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 9:00AM OR BETWEEN 14:30PM AND 16:00PM ON MONDAY TO FRIDAY

2. This Order may be cited as "THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (Hayes Road, Stone, Dartford) (School Keep Clear) (Amendment No 12) Order 2011" and shall come into operation on the 12th day of December 2011.

SCHEDULE

HAYES ROAD	East side - Across the frontage of the St Mary's CE School - From a point 95 metres south of the eastern outside wall of House No.2 Hayes Road, for a distance of 89 metres in a south westerly direction to a point in line with the common boundary of No.3 and No.5 Hayes Road	Across the frontage of the St Mary's CE School
HAYES ROAD	West side - From a point with the common boundary of No.3 and No.5 Hayes Road, for a distance of 44.5 metres in a north easterly direction	

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Dartford District Council, Home Gardens, Dartford and at Sessions House, Maidstone at normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) CONSOLIDATION (AMENDMENT NO. 11) ORDER 2011

NOTICE is hereby given that THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under Sections 1, 2, 4 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act of 1984:

The effect of the Order is to introduce No waiting at any time (double yellow line) restrictions for the full length of both sides of Sandpit Road from its junction with Burnham Road to its eastern end.

Full details are contained in the draft Orders which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Orders may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Sessions House, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ between 8.30am and 5.00pm or Dartford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent DA1 1DR

Any person wishing to support or object to the making of the Order should do so in writing by 9th January 2012 to Andy Corcoran KCC Highways and Transportation, Ashford Highway Depot, 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

MIDDLE STREET, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new gas supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Middle Street, Deal, on or after 12 December 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between properties 138 to 148.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Griffin Street and Exchange Street.

The alternative route is via Griffin Street, A258 Beach Street and Exchange Street.

OKSIDE ROAD, AYLESHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Oakside Road, Aylesham, on or after 12 December 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

There will be no access for through traffic between Hill Crescent and Vale View Road.

The alternative route is via Hill Crescent, Boulevard Courrieres and Vale View Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(THE STREET AND PRESTON ROAD, DOVER) (30 AND 40 MPH SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2011

The Council of the County of Kent in exercise of their powers under sections 82 (2), 83 (2) and 84 (1), (a) and (2) and Part IV Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act, has made the following Order:-

1. No person shall drive any motor vehicle at a speed exceeding 30 miles per hour in the locations specified in schedule 1.
2. No person shall drive any motor vehicle at a speed exceeding 40 miles per hour in the locations specified in schedule 2.
3. The Interpretation Act 1978 shall apply for the interpretation of this Order as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.
4. The Order may cited as "THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (The Street and Preston Road, Dover) (30 and 40 mph Speed Limits) Order 2011" and shall come into operation the 12th day of December 2011.

Schedule 1 (30 mph speed limits)

Road Name	Distance
School Lane	Entire Length
The Street	For a distance of 165 metres in a north easterly direction from its junction with School Lane.
The Street / Preston Road	For a distance of 470 metres in a south westerly direction from its junction with School Lane.
Santon Lane	For a distance of 160 metres in a southerly direction from its junction with The Street.

Schedule 2 (40 mph speed limits)

Road Name	Distance
Preston Road	From a point 90 metres west of its junction with Santon Lane to a point 65 metres south east of its junction with Church Lane.
The Street	From a point 165 metres north east of its junction with School Lane to a point 95 metres north east of the northern boundary of Stour Bridge.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Sessions House, Maidstone ME14 1XQ, between 8.30am and 5.00pm and at Dover District Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover, during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose

HIGHWAYS - District of Maidstone

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 - SECTION 116

STOPPING UP OF LAND AT CHATHAM ROAD, BOXLEY

I AM GIVING NOTICE THAT the Kent County Council propose to make an application to the Magistrates sitting at Maidstone Magistrates Court on 12th January 2012 at 10am for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish highway rights on the grounds that they are unnecessary on land at Chatham Road, Boxley as highlighted on the plan on deposit.

A copy of this notice and the plan referred to are on deposit, and can be seen during normal office hours, at the main reception of Kent Highway Services at Sessions, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ

If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter, please contact Kent County Council in writing at the address given below, or by telephone on 08458 247 800 (24 hour contact centre).

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) (AMENDMENT NO 8) ORDER 2011 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

The Kent County Council, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3 (2), 4 (1) and (2), 32 (1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby makes the following Order:

1. The Order will amend the Kent County Council (Borough of Maidstone) Waiting Restrictions Consolidation 2008 Order by introducing no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the following lengths of road in Maidstone
(i) Bazalgette Rise - From a point in line with the junction with Milton Street to a point in line with its junction with Hartnup Street for the entire length on both sides of the road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(BAZALGETTE RISE, MAIDSTONE) (ONE WAY) ORDER 2011

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

The Kent County Council, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 9 and 10 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, ("the Act") and of all other enabling powers, after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby makes the following Order:

1. The effect of the proposed Order will prohibit any vehicle from travelling south to north on Bazalgette Rise, Maidstone, from the junction with Milton Street to the junction with Hartnup Street.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Maidstone Borough Council offices, King Street, Maidstone and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

POUND LANE, KNOCKHOLT - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Pound Lane, Knockholt outside Roxburgh.

The Order will become effective on 11th December 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 12th December 2011 and last 5 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: May Road, Blueberry Lane, Pound Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate road crossing.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(FAIRSEAT LANE, WROTHAM)(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Fairseat Lane outside Platt Hill Wood on or after Tuesday 13th December 2011 for a period of up to 2 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via A227 Gravesend Road to the roundabout, back up A227 Gravesend Road, Vigo Hill, Platt House Lane.

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to repair a stopcock. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Lyndsay Ford on 01634 877413.

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



HIGHWAYS

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(LONDON ROAD, RYARSH)
(SPEED RESTRICTION)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic travelling at any speed greater than 30mph on London Road from 25m east of entrance to Dovercourt Farm to 20m west of junction of London Road and Roughetts Road on or after Monday 12th December 2011 for a period of up to 5 months or until such works are completed.

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for gas mains replacement. Should you require any further information for these works, the contact is John Adley on 01233 714082.

Katherine Kerswell
Group Managing Director
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 11th December 2011

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways
and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



To place
your notice
here,
call the
Kent
Public Notice
team
on

01303 817044

PLANNING

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/11/1213/N - KENT COUNTY COUNCIL, SESSIONS HOUSE, COUNTY ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1XQ - Listed Building Consent for replacement of existing window with a new window and enlargement of existing rear door to main equipment room. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1598/S - LAND AT, WAGON LANE, PADDOCK WOOD, KENT, TN12 6PT - Retrospective application for the change of use of the land from agricultural to provide five residential gypsy pitches, with one static caravan and one touring caravan on each of Plots 1, 2, 3 and 5; two static caravans and two touring caravans on Plot 4; a timber utility building on Plot 5; associated hardsurfacing and access track; and including the proposed installation of two cesspit/treatment plants on each of Plots 1 and 5. **Reason: 7**

MA/11/1802/N - SITE AT MOTE HOUSE, MOTE PARK, MAIDSTONE, KENT - Erection of 3no. 8m high CCTV poles. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/1879/S - LITTLE TILDEN, ULCOMBE ROAD, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9JY - Variation of condition 2 of Planning permission MA/10/1991 to allow changes to roof, fenestration detail and removal of pool. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/1894/N - 69, BANK STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1SN - Retrospective application for alterations and conversion of first and second floors into one studio flat, two 1 bedroom flats and two 2 bedroom flats. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/1902/N - 69, BANK STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1SN - Retrospective application for listed building consent for alterations to convert first and second floors into one studio flat, two 1 bedroom flats and two 2 bedroom flats. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1965/N - LAND AT, PENHURST CLOSE, GROVE GREEN, MAIDSTONE, KENT - Erection of 7No. dwellings, comprising 3No. 3 bed dwellings and 4No. 2 bed houses with 11 car parking spaces (including 1 visitor). **Reason: 9**

MA/11/1981/N - ARNOLD YOKE, BACK STREET, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1TF - Erection of a two-storey extension and replacement porch, alterations to fenestration including new French doors beneath gable roof to rear elevation, and alterations to barn including demolition of lean-to. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/1982/N - ARNOLD YOKE, BACK STREET, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1TF - Listed Building Consent for erection of a two-storey extension; installation of 1No. conservation roof light to rear elevation; alterations to fenestration replacement of windows to front elevation and installation of French doors beneath gable roof to rear elevation; removal of existing porch and replacement with lead canopy; removal of internal walls; removal and replacement of staircase; and alterations to barn including demolition of lean-to. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1983/S - RAGLAN HOUSE AND POWERHUB, ST PETERS STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT - Change of use of first floor of Raglan House to a dance academy studio (Use Class D2) and change of use of existing dance academy studio in unit B11 of the Powerhub Building to employment use (Use Classes B1 or B2 or B8). **Reason: 9**

MA/11/1984/S - 4, HAYLE MILL COTTAGES, HAYLE MILL ROAD, TOVIL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6DT - Erection of single storey rear extension. **Reason: 2**

MA/11/1985/S - 4, HAYLE MILL COTTAGES, HAYLE MILL ROAD, TOVIL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6DT - An Application for conservation area consent for the demolition of part of an existing single storey rear extension. **Reason: 4**

MA/11/2001/N - LAND EAST OF, SOUTH STREET ROAD, STOCKBURY, KENT, ME9 7UH - Erection of 8 local needs affordable housing units, with associated access and car parking. **Reason: 1, 9**

MA/11/2005/N - 2, BROGDEN FARM COTTAGES, OLD MILL ROAD, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1RT - Erection of a two storey rear extension and single storey porch. **Reason: 1**

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
- 4 - Application is for Conservation Area Consent.
- 7 - Application affects a Public Right of Way.
- 9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **25th December 2011**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 11th December 2011



PLANNING

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION
Town and Country Planning (Development Management
Procedure)(England) Order 2010

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13(3) OF APPLICATION FOR
PLANNING PERMISSION ACCOMPANIED BY AN
ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

NOTICE UNDER Regulation 17 of Town and Country Planning
(Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011.

Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 - Article 8., Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 - Article 8.Town and Country Planning (Listed Buildings and Buildings in Conservation Areas) Regulations 1987 - Regulation 5.

The proposed development is:-

An application affecting the setting of a Listed Building, A Major Development as defined in Article 8 (7) of the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure Order) 1995.

Proposed development at MONKS LAKES, STAPLEHURST ROAD, MARDEN, TN12 9BU

I give notice that MR & MRS HARRISON - MONK LAKES LIMITED

Is applying to the MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

For Part retrospective planning application for the retention of two lakes known as Bridges and Puma and works to create 3 additional lakes all for recreational fishing, erection of clubhouse building and associated works and landscaping.

MA/11/1948

and that the application was accompanied by an Environmental Statement for which further information has now been submitted.

Members of the public may inspect copies of the application on the Council's website via

www.maidstone.gov.uk or at The Gateway, King Street, Maidstone, during office hours (Monday to Friday 8.30am - 5.30pm, Saturday 9.00am - 1.00pm) excluding Bank Holidays. Late night viewing can take place between 5.30pm and 7.00pm each Thursday until 20th December 2011.

Members of the public may obtain copies of the Additional Information for the Environmental Statement from Mrs Tezel Bahcheili, (Director), Parker Dann, Suite S10, The Waterside Centre, North Street, Lewes, BN7 2PE or e-mail tezel@parkerdann.co.uk, or telephone 01273 478654 at a cost of £50.00 for a black and white version (plans at A3 in colour) or colour version for £120.00 (plans at A3) a CD can be provided for £3.00 + p&p.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should do so via the link on the Council's website www.maidstone.gov.uk or write to the Council, quoting reference MA/11/1948, at:- Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent. ME15 6JQ

by 20th December 2011

Signed

R. L. Jarman

Rob Jarman

Head of Development Management

On behalf of Maidstone Borough Council

Date: 21st November 2011



Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

11/03555/FUL **Land Between 1 & 11 Broadcroft, Broadwater**

- Variation of condition 7 - Hard and soft landscaping (TW/07/03046 refers) (CA)

11/03286/LBC **Whistlers Golfrod Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**

- Listed building consent - installation of sixteen photovoltaic panels to new barn/dwelling (LB)

11/03585/LBC **Lloyds Pharmacy White Lion House, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**

- Listed Building Consent - Advertisement - 1 x non-illuminated sets of individual letters and logo;

1 x non-illuminated existing flat timber panel to be repainted with applied vinyl graphics (LB)

11/03574/FUL **Barn 30 Metres South Of Yew Tree Farmhouse, Horsmonden**

- Conversion of redundant barn to a dwelling and construction of a detached garage (LB)

11/03575/LBC **Barn 30 Metres South Of Yew Tree Farmhouse, Horsmonden-**

Listed building consent - Conversion of redundant barn to a dwelling and construction of a detached garage (LB)

11/03576/FUL **Barn 50 Metres South Of Yew Tree Farmhouse, Horsmonden**

- Conversion of barn no. 2, to residential dwelling and detached garage (LB)

11/03577/FUL **Yew Tree Farm Oast Yew Tree Green Road, Horsmonden**

- Conversion of redundant Oast House to single dwelling and construction of a detached garage (LB)

11/03578/LBC **Yew Tree Farm Oast Yew Tree Green Road, Horsmonden**

- Listed Building Consent: Conversion of redundant Oast House to single dwelling and construction of a detached garage (LB)

11/03579/LBC **Barn 50 Metres South Of Yew Tree Farmhouse, Horsmonden**

- Listed Building Consent: Conversion of barn no. 2, to residential dwelling and detached garage (LB)

11/03623/FUL **Calverley Grounds Mount Pleasant Avenue, Park**

- Temporary change of use for siting of ice rink, skate changing marquee, lighting and associated equipment - Variation of condition 1 of TW/11/02755 to allow extension of close of business until Sunday 8th January 2012 (CA)

11/03590/FULMJ **Currys Units A & B, Sherwood**

- Extension to mezzanine floor (MAJOR)

11/03094/HOUSE **Holly Cottage Bullingstone Lane, Speldhurst**

- Extension of driveway; Removal of bulk gas tank and replace with gas bottles; Screen new gas tanks with oak wooden door; Install pergola (LB)

11/03095/LBC **Holly Cottage Bullingstone Lane, Speldhurst**

- Listed Building Consent - Extension of driveway; Removal of bulk gas tank and replace with gas bottles; Screen new gas tanks with oak wooden door; Install pergola (LB)

11/03408/FUL **12 St James Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, St James**

- Shed in back garden (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by e-mail to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe

Head of Planning Services

Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 10 December 2011



NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR
PLANNING PERMISSION

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND
CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

**KCC/TM/0489/2011 - Proposed development at
Ightham Primary School, Oldbury Lane, Ightham,
Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9DD.**

KCC Property & Infrastructure is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for the renewal of planning permission for existing single class mobile. Building is not to be altered in any way. The proposed development is within the Ightham/Oldbury Conservation Area and is likely to affect its character and/or appearance, and also affects the setting of a listed building.

You may view this application at Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ.

Alternatively, details of the application can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the District/Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson

Head of Planning

Applications Group

Kent County Council

Dated: 11 December 2011



Town and Country Planning (Development
Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010

Notice Under Article 11 of Application for
Planning Permission

Proposed development at: Duncan Down Village
Green, Whitstable.

Take notice that application is being made by:
Friends of Duncan Down

Applicant name: Mr Ashley Clark

For planning permission to: Erect wooden footbridge
(Retrospective application)

Local planning authority to whom the application
is being submitted: Canterbury City Council,
Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YW

Any owner of the land or tenant who wishes to make
representations about this application, should write to
the council within 21 days of the date of this notice.

9 December 2011

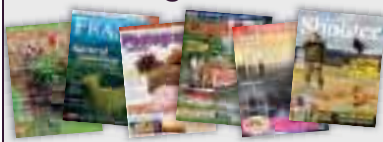
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PLANNING

Planning applications



Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
 Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
 Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
 Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA/11/01793/TPO: 44 Eddington Lane, Herne Bay, CT6 5TT Work to Lime tree under TPO No 1 of 1959. **Applicant: Mr J Cox**
 Reason: Conservation area.

CA/11/01830/FUL: 18-19 Watling Street, Canterbury, CT1 2UA Change of use from Use Class B1 (business) to Use Class D1 (non-residential institution) medical consultation clinic. **Applicant: Optimax** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/11/01885/FUL: The Thatched House, Gravel Castle Road, Barham, CT4 6EU Demolition of existing dwelling and the erection of a replacement dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Nicholas Showan** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/11/01966/FUL: 44 Woodlawn Street, Whitstable, CT5 1HQ Replacement windows and doors. **Applicant: Mrs Genower**
 Reason: Conservation area.

CA/11/01969/FUL: Mystole Cottage, Mystole, Chartham, CT4 7DB Demolition of existing garage and erection of garage and store. **Applicant: Mr S Harding** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/11/01970/FUL: 1 Duck Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2AE Internal and external alterations, erection of boundary railings and walls, creation of vehicular access, raising height of wash house roof, walls and chimney stack. **Applicant: Tim Less** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/11/01974/ADV: 5-7 Whitefriars Street, Canterbury, CT1 2TA Alterations to shop front to include illuminated fascia sign and non-illuminated hanging sign. **Applicant: H&M Hennes & Mauriz UK Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/11/01976/FUL: 108 Island Road, Chislehurst, CT3 4DD Erection of conservatory to rear elevation of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Hopkins**
 Reason: Conservation area.

CA/11/01979/ADV: 10-11 Sun Street, Canterbury, CT1 2HX Externally illuminated fascia sign and hanging sign. **Applicant: Tragus Holdings Ltd**
 Reason: Conservation area.

CA/11/01985/FUL: Apartment 1, 23 Oaten Hill, Canterbury, CT1 3HY Erection of single-storey extension. **Applicant: Cardy Construction Ltd**
 Reason: Conservation area.

CA/11/01987/FUL: 1-7 New Dover Road, Canterbury, CT1 3AD Demolition of existing building and erection of two retail (A1 Use) 836 sqm and 120 bedroom hotel with restaurant and associated parking and servicing. **Applicant: Silvercoin Investments Ltd**
 Reason: Major development.

CA/11/01992/LB: 1-3 St Peter's Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2BP Internal alterations, replacement balcony to rear and replacement windows. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Senabulya/Wells** Reason: Work to a listed building.

CA/11/02028/CAC: The Thatched House, Gravel Castle Road, Barham, CT4 6EU Demolition of existing dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Nicholas Showan** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.

CA/11/02031/LB: 1 Duck Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2AE Internal and external alterations, erection of boundary railings and walls, creation of vehicular access, raising height of wash house roof, walls and chimney stack. **Applicant: Tim Less** Reason: Work to a listed building.

CA/11/02039/LB: Apartment 1, 23 Oaten Hill, Canterbury, CT1 3HY Erection of single-storey extension and reduce height of boundary wall. **Applicant: Cardy Construction Ltd** Reason: Work to a listed building.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to development.control@canterbury.gov.uk to arrive on or before **Monday 2 January 2012**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
 Friday 9 December 2011

PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

M-J ALLEN HOLDINGS LTD of Hilton Road, Cobbs Wood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1EW is applying for licence to use M-J Allen Moldings Ltd, Hilton Road, Cobbs Wood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1EW as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicle and 0 trailer.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hill Crest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - CITY OF CANTERBURY

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH CC52 (IN WINCHEAP)
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH CC52)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14 (1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath CC52 between the A28 Wincheap (NGR TR 143 571) and the junction with St Mildreds Place from 2nd December 2011

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before January 2012.

The path is to be closed because works are planned near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via Wincheap, Victoria Road and St Mildreds Place.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Louise Adams

PROW - BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF A PUBLIC PATH CREATION AGREEMENT

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 - SECTION 25

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

DEDICATION OF A PUBLIC FOOTPATH AT BOUGHTON MONCHESEA

PUBLIC PATH CREATION AGREEMENT RELATING TO LAND AT BERESFORDS HILL, BOUGHTON MONCHESEA

The above named Agreement, made on 19 September 2011 under Section 25 of the Highways Act 1980, has been made by the Kent County Council. The effect of the Agreement is to add:-

Public Footpath KM339 which commences on the eastern side of Beresfords Hill at NGR TQ 7684 5159 (Point K), to the south of Beresfords Lodge and opposite Lady Bessies Cottage and runs in a south south-westerly direction for 110 metres, southerly for 15 metres, thence south south-easterly for approximately 93 metres to another connection with Beresfords Hill at NGR TQ 7683 5139 (Point N). The new length of path has a width of 1.2 metres. There are two pedestrian gates one situated at Point L (NGR TQ 7683 5158), approximately 15 metres south south-west of Point K and the other situated at Point M (NGR TQ 7683 5139), approximately 4 metres north north-west of Point N.

All distances approximate, all directions general.

A copy of the Public Path Creation Agreement and accompanying plan have been placed and may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of the Kent County Council's Countryside Access Service at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. Copies may also be purchased there.

Under Section 25 of the Highways Act 1980, there is no right of an objection and the Agreement has taken immediate effect.

For further information please contact
 Laura Wilkins - 01622 221517

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact
 Kent Countryside Access Service,
 on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
 or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

PROW - BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE AND MALLING

NOTICE OF MODIFICATION ORDER

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(FOOTPATH MR602 AT SNODLAND)

DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

The above Order was made on 10th August 2011 under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If confirmed, it will modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by adding a Footpath (MR602) with a width of 2 metres which commences on Bingley Close at the entrance to the garages at the rear of properties on Bingley Close at NGR TQ 7004 6183 (Point A), running in a north north- easterly direction for 31 metres and then turns in an east south- easterly direction for 38 metres to join with Birling Road at NGR TQ 7009 6185 (Point B). (Between Point A and B on the Order Plan).

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may also be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order must be sent or delivered in writing to Matthew Garvey at the Kent County Council (address as below) no later than 23 January 2012. Please state the grounds on which it is made.

If no such representations or objections are duly made to the Order (or to any part of it), or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council, instead of submitting the Order to the Secretary of State (or part of it if the Authority has by Notice to the Secretary of State so elected under paragraph 5 of schedule 15 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) may itself confirm the Order (or that part of the Order). If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment (in whole or in part), any representations or objections which have been duly made and not been withdrawn will be sent with it.

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 11th December 2011



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BIRTHS

AHMED

Ahmed Elgohari, Son Fadi Elgohari, Born 15th November, Weighed 3335 gram, Son of Ahmed and Zunana Elgohari

BOGARD

David and Sarah Bogard are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Sophie Amelia Bogard on 25th November 2011 at 12.10pm. First grandchild for Irene, Brian, Sheila and Maurice.

BRENNAN-DAVEY

Anne-Marie Brennan and Pete Davey announce the arrival of Aoife Claire Brennan-Davey, on the 14th November 2011 at Tunbridge Wells Hospital Pembury.

CALLOWAY

Gavin and Rose Calloway of Old Wives Lees are delighted to announce the arrival of Ava Morgan. Born on 27th November 2011 weighing 10lb 11oz. A beautiful baby sister for Charlie Roisin.

HOLLAND

Tracey and Paul would like to announce the birth of their son, Harry Richard Holland, born on 28th October 2011 weighing 9lb 5oz.

MILLS

Ellie-Mai born on 8th November 2011, weighing 6lb 11oz. Daughter to Jason and Natalie in Maidstone.

O CONNELL

Amanda and Darren OConnell of Birchington celebrate the birth of their daughter Lily-Mae on 26th November 2011.

O DRISCOLL

Jamie and Rachel ODriscoll of Chartham are delighted to announce the arrival of Jushua James on 4th November 2011, weighing 6lb 11oz. A baby brother for Bradley

O'SHEA

John and Liz are delighted to announce the birth of Alice Rosie Eliza O'Shea born on 23rd October 2011 Baby sister to Jessica Elliott and Alexander

PATEL

Monika and Ujwal Patel are proud to announce the birth of their beautiful baby son Devam born at 00.13 hours on 1st November 2011 weighing 8lbs. xx

PENTECOST

Tyler born on 22nd November 2011, weighing 8lbs. Son to Maxine and John in Margate

DEATHS

CLOUT

Henry John Clout passed away in the Loose Valley Nursing Home on November 26th, aged 90 years. Will be sadly missed by son Les, family and friends.

HOMWOOD

We are sorry to announce the death of Dennis Clifford Homewood a much loved Husband, Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather. He passed away on the 28th November 2011. He will be very sadly missed by all who knew him.

READER OFFER Holidays

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for bookings and information



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From £849pp

Departs: 16 April (8 days), 16 May, 17 & 24 Sept, 2012 (9 days)

This super holiday taking in the French & Italian Rivas, starts with a glass of Bubbly at St Pancras (or join at Ebbsfleet/Ashford) before boarding the Eurostar to Lille or Paris. After an overnight stay, we continue by TGV train to Nice and Diano Marina. On the Riviera enjoy Free Drinks every night and visits to Monaco & Eze, Portofino & Dolceacqua.

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Champagne check-in
- Return rail travel
- 1 night hotel B&B in Lille or Paris



- 6 or 7 nights half board in Diano Marina with free house wine/beers/spirits 18.00 to 23.00hrs every night
- Included excursions

All transfers abroad

*£50pp initial deposit when booked by 31 Dec, followed by £150pp payable by 31 January and full balance payable 8 weeks before departure

Slovenia & Lake Bled Explorer

Escorted Holiday by Air

8 days

Quote SB-KOS

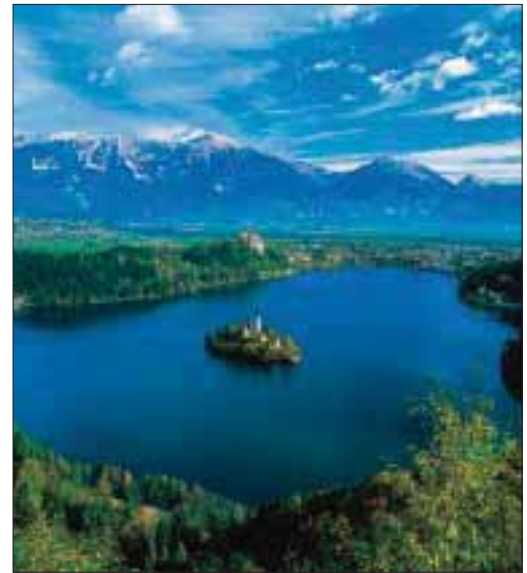
From £849pp

7 June & 4 Sept, 2012

Slovenia is a tiny country, about half the size of Switzerland, with a population of just over two million people. Slovenia has been named a lot of things since independence from Yugoslavia in 1991 – 'Europe in Miniature', 'The Sunny Side of the Alps', 'The Green Piece of Europe' – and, though they may sound like tourist-brochure quotes, they're all true.

From beaches, snow-capped mountains, hills awash in grapevines and wide plains blanketed in sunflowers, to Gothic churches, baroque palaces, historic castles and art nouveau civic buildings, Slovenia offers more diversity than countries many times its size.

Its incredible mixture of climates brings warm Mediterranean breezes up to the foothills of the Alps. With more than half of its



total area covered in forest, Slovenia truly is one of the greenest countries in the world.

One of Slovenia's greatest assets is the Slovenes themselves – welcoming, generous, multilingual, broad-minded.

As far as they are concerned, they do not live emotionally, spiritually or even geographically in 'Eastern' Europe – their home is the very heart of Europe

INCLUDED:

- Return Easyjet flights Stansted to Ljubljana, Slovenia
- 7 nights 4-star hotel stay with 7 breakfasts & 7 dinners
- Comprehensive excursion programme
- Escorted throughout in Slovenia
- All transfers abroad



Mamma Mia Party

For over 40s only

Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village, Suffolk Coast

Self drive, 3 nights, half board PLUS 99p Bar

Quote MP3-KOS

£99pp

16 to 19 March, 2012

Join us for a party where the name of the game is fun. We're reviving the 70s & 80s when Abba reigned

supreme and their songs were on everyone's lips. We have organised a fabulous party weekend featuring Mamma Mia the Movie and a top Abba Tribute Band playing live.

INCLUDED:

- Mamma Mia the Movie
- Top Abba Tribute band
- 99p Bar from 6pm to 11pm every night
- Full Entertainment & Activities programme
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation



'Downton Abbey' Highclere Castle Private Tour & Lunch

Self-Drive 4-star Break

1 night half board+

Quote HD12-KOS

£149pp

13 to 14 December, 2011

Downton Abbey fans can follow in the footsteps of their favourite characters on our private tour of Highclere Castle, near Newbury – film location for the hit TV series – before enjoying lunch in one of

the castle's state rooms.

Your break starts when you check in at the 4* Brook Waterloo Hotel, in Crowthorne, Berkshire, on Tuesday afternoon. On Tuesday evening enjoy dinner at the hotel.

After breakfast on Wednesday morning, we join our coach for the short journey to Highclere Castle. We have a private tour of the castle and a 2-course lunch in one of the state rooms. We return to the hotel mid afternoon.

INCLUDED:

- Tuesday night with dinner & breakfast at the 4* Brook Waterloo Hotel, Crowthorne, Berkshire - add Wednesday night half board for £45pp
- Wednesday visit to Highclere Castle with private tour and lunch, including return coach travel from the hotel



Carry on New Year Party in Leicestershire

For over 40s only

Bosworth Hall Hotel Leicestershire

Self drive, 2 nights, half board PLUS 99p Bar

Quote CO1-KOS

WAS £109pp

SALE PRICE £99pp

6, 13, 20, 27 Jan & 3 Feb, 2012

Our popular party weekends – for over 40s only, at Bosworth Hall Hotel in the village of Market Bosworth – have become a must-do annual event with guests returning year after year for a great-value weekend.

INCLUDED:

- 99p drinks from 5pm to 11pm both nights - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- 2 nights en-suite hotel room
- 2 dinners & 2 breakfasts
- Entertainment both nights
- Indoor pool & gym (£4pp per day payable at the hotel)



Join special guest star Ben Mills for a truly cool start to the new year

SEE PAGE 46



A TOP MOTOR

The new Range Rover Evoque is car of the year

SEE PAGE 51

Kent Weekend

History most horrid

Our awful ancestors return to the stage

SEE PAGE 43



PLUS: Forest opts for Plan B for entertainment - **events and exhibitions p45**
Affordable-housing plans are great news for the builders - **property p48**
From 4x4s to eco cars, there's something for everyone - **driving p51**



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THE INTERVIEW

Neal Foster

PARENTS across the UK will be forever indebted to the Horrible Histories books that have been a vital tool in the struggle to get youngsters both reading and interested in the past.

Just last month the Horrible Histories live stage show performed to 40,000 Mancunians in just a seven-day stint.

The story of how it turned from a much-loved book to one of the most highly-rated children's stage productions starts with Neal Foster.

He said: "I attended Warwick University for about seven weeks, which was enough for me, so I left to go to drama school.

"I went to the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, and from there I decided I wanted to set up and work full-time for my own theatre company, which at that point I called Endless Theatre."

This developed into what we now know as the Birmingham Stage Company. "It is still effectively the same company I set up in the 80s but just with a name change," said Foster, 45.

Almost 20 years ago, down a back alley in Birmingham, Foster came across the famous Birmingham Old Rep Theatre. Previously a powerhouse of British theatre showing off the talents of Sir Laurence Olivier and Sir Barry Jackson, the Old Rep had become a little neglected and largely unused.

"It was empty for five months of the year. We looked at filling all of the slots that were not being used, and luckily that included the Christmas period, which is unusual," said Foster.

But with no money to start creating shows and filling seats, Foster decided to take matters into his own hands, as he explains...

"Our first major production was to be Chekhov's *The Seagull*. So to raise funds I just decided I would see if I could do some interesting live interviews on stage. I decided to walk around the West End in London grabbing as many famous actors I could find as they made their way into the theatres."

It must have been Foster's lucky day as the list of stars he managed to sign up would not have looked out of place at the Oscars.

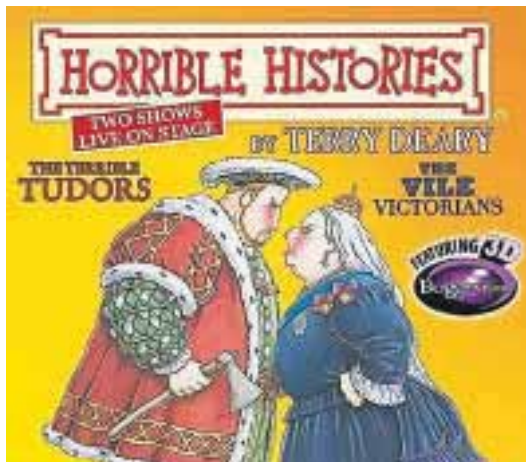
He said: "I ended up securing help from some of our best actors, including Dustin Hoffman, Jack Lemmon, Derek Jacobi, Peter O'Toole, Dame Judi Dench and Sir Ian McKellen.

"I literally just went up and asked them. I said I was trying to make money to start up a show, and whether they would let me interview them on stage. Almost without exception they just pulled out their diaries and said 'When do you want to do it?'."

"They are a fantastic credit to the industry. It

Producer's success is all ancient history

Neal Foster has taken the Horrible Histories books of Terry Deary and transformed them into a new work of art, as **Joe Bill** discovered



6699

I ended up securing help from some of our best actors including Dustin Hoffman, Peter O'Toole, Dame Judi Dench and Sir Ian McKellen – I literally went up and said I was trying to start up a show

NEAL FOSTER, ON RAISING FUNDS FOR THE BSC

shows how willing to help the top actors are, for someone right at the beginning of their career.

"They all had to start somewhere and Dustin Hoffman said he recognised himself in me and wanted to help."

From the live interview shows, Endless Theatre raised enough money to put on *The Seagull* and continued on its journey.

In 1992, the group changed its name and the Birmingham Stage Company was born, having stayed in residence at the Old Rep Theatre.

The BSC now tours throughout the UK and abroad – but it has been far from plain sailing.

Foster said: "It's funny when you have a success: from the outside it looks like you have had a straight line. It is only when you're involved you know how up and down it has been."

"We have had plenty of near-misses when the whole company has been in jeopardy, but we

have always been fortunate that just at the moment we are going to lose an arm and leg we get a lift with another show that has worked. It has been a real roller-coaster."

And next month Horrible Histories' Terrible Tudors and Vile Victorians head to the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells with an impressive reputation.

Foster said: "It was during the Christmas runs that we decided to concentrate on theatre for children, something that was different to a lot of other theatres in Birmingham.

"We have always done adult shows and will continue to do so, but you could say we have become specialist in kids' shows... and that ended up with us producing Horrible Histories."

"We had an idea of what we wanted, so we contacted the author of the books, Terry Deary, to see if it would work on stage. That was the beginning of the almost life-long romance."

The BBC had also shown interest in producing the Horrible Histories show, but after it decided not to proceed, Foster and the BSC seized their opportunity with both hands.

"It was Terry who wrote the Tudors and Victorians show for next year – then it comes to rehearsals and we play with it and have a bit of discussion and it is really effective."

"Our secret weapon, and quite groundbreaking in theatre, is that our set is a video screen and in the second half it becomes 3D. For example when the Spanish Armada attack, they fire cannonballs into the audience."

The show will head to 40 venues around the UK in the coming months, and there have been calls for it to appear in New York and even Dubai.

"They are full of fun, jokes and humour, but at the same time lots of facts and historical stories," said Foster. "It is among the best reaction to a kids' show I have ever seen – it is like being in a pop concert by the end."

Foster, himself a widely-experienced West End stage actor, will be taking part as Henry VIII in the current show, but he also has one eye on the next production.

He said: "Just like the books – we have Barmy Britain planned for the West End next year. Terry and I are writing that one at the moment and it should be a lot of fun."

With the Ruthless Romans and Awesome Egyptians having already graced the Assembly Hall Theatre stage, the Terrible Tudors and Vile Victorians should also go down in history.

Horrible Histories plays at the Assembly Hall Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, January 31-February 4. For tickets, visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk or phone the box office on 01892 530 613.



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SERENE attractive, slim, black female, 37, enjoys reading, films, music, sport, seeks genuine, caring gent, 34-46 for conversation, companionship, laughter and life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411

SALLY 42, attractive, kind, loving, seeks similar male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381433

JAYNE tall blonde, blue eyes, attractive, OHAC, no ties, enjoys nights out, romantic nights in, WLTm male up to 55yrs for fun times, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381365

EMMIE 28yr old lonely single mum all out of love, looking for good company with male who can tame a confident beautiful sensual lady. Any looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381363

NINA black beauty, classy 21, loves to have lots of fun, seeks older man who is willing to come up with a few new ideas for adult fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381361

KATH 41 slim size 10, attractive and hardworking, likes cosy nights in/out, seeks cuddly romantic guy for life and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381339

TANYA attractive, fit, slim, fun, all a hot bodded male wants! Now I have your attention, 37yr single female looking for the real deal. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381335

CHRISTMAS special! Tia shy pretty female 39, seeks outgoing man to coax me out of my shell, for good times and old langsyes. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381333

63YR old large female, 5ft 6ins, brown eyes, dark hair, N/S, likes tv, theatre, cinema, shopping, seeks male with similar interests and a car. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380459

SARAH 40's black hair, blue eyes, curvy, outgoing, N/S, likes meals out, cosy nights in, seeking tall, good looking male who loves a laugh. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388626

PETITE French lady, likes to be spoiled/pampered, seeks gent, 40-55 for discreet liaisons. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379579

GWEN lovely dark haired, dark blue eyed slim sensual female with GSOH, WLTm male 35-50 for fun dates and romantic nights in together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380443

DEBBIE dark haired, passionate classy, discreet female looking for professional intelligent male wanting mutual companionship. Can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380441

DEBORAH 38 missing that special someone in my life. Call me, even if you're not the one I guarantee we will still have loads of fun! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380439

CHRISTINE fun loving single mum, looking for fun loving single guy with GSOH for lots of romance, fun times and adult conversations. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380383

CLARE 28yr old single female, busty, feminine and a bit of a catch, looking for fun times with open-minded guy. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380381

JUDY slim pretty youthful nurse, divorced, no ties, missing male company, WLTm similar young at heart for some much needed attention. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380377

LADY mid 60's, attractive, brunette, N/S, likes travel, concerts, countryside, seeks N/S male, 60-68 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380357

CARRIE 38 blue eyes, blonde, voluptuous, curvy, looking for professional gent up to 50yrs LTR. Call me to meet up for a casual drink and chat. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380881

LISA sexy blonde 31yrs, extremely fit and outgoing, seeking male for casual friendship with benefits. Discretion assured. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380879

TRISH tall slim brunette, honest, reliable, affectionate, OHAC, no ties, outgoing, loves Indian food, seeking male 39-50yrs for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380877

CAROL attractive lady of leisure, solvent, OHAC, WLTm sincere gent willing to entertain and share all of life's naughty indulgences with me. Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380857

CARRIE 28yr old Christmas cracker, seeking easygoing confident character to pull me! ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380855

SUE long blonde haired slim but curvy pretty female, loves to live life to the full, good wine, shopping, seeking genuine male 48-60yrs for adult friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380853

WARM hearted woman, 48, seeks man with GSOH, late 40's to early 50's. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380277

48YR old female, slim, caring, animal lover, seeks tall, caring male for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388354

MAVE young 73yr old widow, attractive, seeks tall, solvent gent, 65-75 to share good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378799

YOUNG 73yr old widow, attractive, seeks male, 55-75 for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378785

WANNA spend Chrimbo with a big busty bimbo? Tracy separated and looking for Mr Fun! Come on you have to lose. Call me. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380009

SHIRLEY young looking tall attractive fit female, OHAC, open-minded, varied interests seeks tall male for genuine dates. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380005

KAREN 58, 5ft 6ins, medium build, fun loving, romantic, caring, extrovert, seeks male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387902

LYDIA quiet black female, slim, looking for love with nice guy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376421

TALL long haired brunette, slim attractive, big green eyes, WLTm gent for mutual companionship, maybe leading to more. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376559

MIA attractive slim fit female looking for someone to put the spark back in my life, seeking fun, adventurous and passionate male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376557

LINDA 68, N/S, likes nights in, meals out, holidays, GSOH, seeking a gent 60-70 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375651

JANE passionate lady seeking unconventional young at heart male 35-50 for free spirited, open-minded fun and new experiences. Single dads welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375611

LIBBY 36, newly single, no hang-ups, WLTm outgoing male to wine/dine and forever be mine. Don't miss it! Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375607

CARMEL blonde brown eyed girl, employed with OHAC, likes meals out, walking, looking for loving relationship with caring down to earth male. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380001

HANNAH 34 slim petite green eyed single mum with many interest, seeking discreet older male for mutual companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379977

SAM 35, green eyed voluptuous, busty, loves football, theatre, travel, red wine, WLTm older male up to 65yrs for sensual relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379975

TASHA 37, blonde tanned and very pretty, seeks well dressed older male with GSOH for fun meets, loving treats and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375605

LESLIE 34yr old singleton, fun and vivacious looking for laughs/giggles with some great company. If you like the sound of me, pls call. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375579

FEMALE like theatre, cinema, music, seeks gent, 50-80 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377915

I don't wanna be alone and unattached for another Xmas! Bev, attractive, big hearted, many interests, seeks male willing to take an interest in me! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376593

PETITE French lady, likes to be pampered, seeks sugar daddy, 40-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379579

FEMALE 58, widow, attractive, seeking mature gent, 60 plus with GSOH for companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379649

CAT 37 slim, athletic open minded female seeks male 20-45 for good times, laughs and spontaneous fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379565

LADY young 50's, blonde, green eyes, 5ft 7ins, seeks male with GSOH, good looks for companionship, friendship, with country house or farm. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388548

MEL tall curvy attractive blonde, loves cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine, looking for some male attention and company. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379971

BLONDE young looking female, seeks older, generous guy to spoil her. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369413

TRACY good looking, brunette, employed, own flat, likes nights in/out, travel, WLTm outgoing male for holidays, laughs and good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379559

SARAH 39yr old female looking for a little extra out of life, seeks discreet male in similar circumstance to enjoy intimate mutually respectful relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379557

AMANDA cuddly 36yr old easygoing caring lonely female just looking for love with nice guy, 30-55yrs. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375133

SASHA 28yr old beautiful surfer babe looking for fun initially, maybe more with fit confident male who can handle me. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375131

CAROL slim, blue eyed attractive lady looking for fun friendship maybe more with open minded male happy to accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374675

LYN romantic lady looking to be loved by similar romantic lonely hearted with no expectations, call me. Looks/age/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379533

JO slim attractive dark haired female 33yrs, likes gym, theatre, WLTm older man for fun loving relationship, good times in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379531

ANN attractive lonely widow, OHAC, solvent, no ties, looking to put some good old fashioned romance back into her life. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379527

CHARLOTTE 30, sweet French female, long legs, sporty, fit and healthy, seeking well built, fit guy to share interests and show me new ones. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376887

DEE blonde, mature, young looking, seeking sugar daddy, any offers? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387722

JULIE attractive slim blonde blue eyed beauty, fit with GSOH, professional, OHAC, WLTm male for travel, good food/wine and mutual over indulgences. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379007

DONNA lost my faith in men and looking for someone feisty to light my fire, are you the one, call me, whatya got to lose? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375705

JANE 50, young at heart, GSOH, divorced, seeks male who wants to do something adventurous like travel the USA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387526

LOOKING for company with someone who can restore my faith in the male species! Karen, sensual 36yr old brunette seeking genuine fun and frolics. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377107

LORRAINE single mum new to the area starting again, OHAC, GSOH, WLTm nice guy to cuddle up with and appreciate, maybe more. Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377097

KAREN 36, pretty blonde who is stuck in a rut looking for easygoing kinda guy for discreet romantic meals and fun drives out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374673

NICKY 47 slim, honest, loyal, seeks tall, dark haired man for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387586

CUDDLY lady 65, blue eyed blonde, 5ft 3ins, 65, N/S, GSOH, animal lover, drives, WLTm tall, well built, caring single male, 50-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371473

SICK of always taking life so seriously, looking for uncomplicated fun times with happy outgoing male. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371545

30'S female, easy-going, laidback, animal friendly, looking for that special person to share things with, any age/looks. Hope you call. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372233

CASSIE looking for good times, laughs, meals out with down to earth male, 30-65yrs who is looking for fun not commitment. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375577

CAROL 33yrs attractive slim brunette just looking for genuine caring man for romance, meals in and maybe more. Any age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375575

JUDY 56, post op trans gender, seeks guy for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372269

KATHY 48, likes dogs, walks, cinema, seeks male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388300

FEMALE 74, 5ft 1ins, artistic, versatile, seeks nice caring gent for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378465

URGENT would the gent from Eastbourne please contact Dawn again as I have the wrong number. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378425

26YR old Indian princess looking for discreet older N/S professional male to make life a bit more interesting and share mutual companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373089

Hi I'm Louise, an easygoing sensual slim blonde looking for someone to have fun with initially maybe more later. Call me. Any age/status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373009

LAURA slim attractive stylish feminine, GSOH looking for similar to enjoy good times with. Discretion expected/assured. Any age/status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377095

CAROLINE 31, Attractive, slim but curvy brunette, witty and fun, seeking relaxed, male for fun times together. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373007

Hi I am Marie, a pretty middle aged lonely divorcee missing male company seeking love and laughter with likeminded man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373003

CHRISTINE attractive 49yr old female, N/S, caring, GSOH, genuine, seeks male partner of similar age to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373997

JEANETTE big brown eyed busty fit size 10 with lots of interest, searching for a sincere man to share love and life with. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374703

JENNY very young shy black female looking for reliable, genuine nice older man to help me become an attentive lover, 40-70yrs. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374701

HELLO I'm Jane, attractive, genuine, caring, intelligent, romantic and single at 38yrs, what are you waiting for? Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374677

GEORGINA likes horses, dogs, walks, seeks male, 60-72 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386426

LUCY bubbly attractive 32yr old blonde seeking similar naughty boy to share the good side of life with. Age/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373109

LISA 19 curvy brown eyed brunette looking for a fun relationship with caring male up to 67yrs who will appreciate and look after me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374131

GENUINE racy female with a compassionate side looking for similar man to share lots of laughter and romantic nights in/out, 36-66yrs. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370109

ANGELA divorced lady, seeking companion to share days out, cinema, meals etc. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387350

LOVELY tall slim nurse, very caring and fun but missing that va-voom! Seeks adventurous male who's up for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374159

FULL time vacancy arisen for open minded male seeking uncomplicated relationship with slim professional 39yr old female with wicked sense of humour. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374157

47YR old female, slim, seeks tall male for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372783

MALE 62, loves horse riding, nature, country walks, meals out, at-nights in, seeks female, 50-60 for travel, theatre, home life and meaningful relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379043

EM attractive full bodied lady, mild mannered, sensual nature, looking for happy times and loving future with appreciative man. Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372559

CLASSY lady, slim, pretty, young looking graduate, mixed race 38, London, seeking a sugar daddy to spoil and pamper me. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373031

ACTIVE slim female 30yrs, easy-going, honest with GSOH and a passion for life looking for genuine man to fall for, 28-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370097

LAURA 52, cuddly, loyal, caring, honest, seeks gent to share good times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379427

MALE 62, loves horse riding, nature, country walks, meals out, at-nights in, seeks female, 50-60 for travel, theatre, home life and meaningful relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379043

DEREK black male, seeking mature female for friendship and serious relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387986

DAVID 48, seeking someone to love and care for. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388476

PETER 69, retired, good for it, at-nights in, seeks female, 5ft 11ins, Taurus, LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box N/S, fit, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380895

FIT man, 55, seeks naughty lady IF your over 50 and need a man to 50 plus looking to be excited by a spend quality passionate time with, naughty nice man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380619

BRIAN 61, slim, athletic, likes nights in/out, music, theatre, seeks female, attractive 40's lady, for fun, affection and GSOH for companionship and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388794

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PAUL 63, retired, lonely, GSOH, smoker, caring, seeks nice, genuine lady of similar age for friendship, companionship and to put the sparkle back into our lives. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381415

65YR old male, 6ft, medium build, seeks local female for daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381205

BUSINESSMAN 47, tall, slim, dark hair, good looking, seeks sensual, attractive female/lover to indulge, 30-40. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381199

NICK 6ft, blond hair, blue eyes, medium build, good looking, seeks female for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388714

46YR old male, one son, bored of the same old same old, looking for fun, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388672

DAVE 58, professional, easygoing looking for lady for a LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367157



FEMININE slim, curvy lady, 58, nice eyes/smile, seeks peace loving gent, 50-69 to share travel, theatre, home life and meaningful relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370943

EM attractive full bodied lady, mild mannered, sensual nature, looking for happy times and loving future with appreciative man. Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372559

CLASSY lady, slim, pretty, young looking graduate, mixed race 38, London, seeking a sugar daddy to spoil and pamper me. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373031

ACTIVE slim female 30yrs, easy-going, honest with GSOH and a passion for life looking for genuine man to fall for, 28-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370097

LAURA 52, cuddly, loyal, caring, honest, seeks gent to share good times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379427

MALE 62, loves horse riding, nature, country walks, meals out, at-nights in, seeks female, 50-60 for travel, theatre, home life and meaningful relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379043

DEREK black male, seeking mature female for friendship and serious relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387986

DAVID 48, seeking someone to love and care for. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388476

PETER 69, retired, good for it, at-nights in, seeks female, 5ft 11ins, Taurus, LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box N/S, fit, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380895

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EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

To be included on this page, please email
features@kosmedia.co.uk



Circus school classes Sign up for new term

Brook Theatre, Chatham

Friday, January 13
01634 338319
www.fusefestival.or.uk

TERM two of Fuse Medway Festival's Circus School will begin at Chatham's Brook Theatre next month.

Places are being taken up fast, so you'll have to book early to have the chance of being part of next year's Medway Fuse Festival. Since the autumn, the highly successful Circus School has been teaching new skills, using equipment such as tightwire, unicycles, hula hoops, juggling balls, diabolo and an aerial rig. Léila Gréci, artistic director of Fuse, said: "We were particularly keen to bring circus to Medway, not just as a fantastic performance to watch at the Fuse Festival but as something people can participate in and benefit from."

Plan B heads to the forest A pine time!

Bedgebury Pinetum

Friday, June 22
Tickets, at £32, on sale now
01580 879842

BRIT AWARD-winner Plan B is to play a series of shows at woodland sites across the UK next summer – and has confirmed Bedgebury Pinetum as part of the tour.

The singer-songwriter, real name Ben Drew, has enjoyed huge success with his recent album *The Defamation Of Strickland Banks* and won a host of awards, including three Ivor Novellos and the Best British Male gong at the Brits. He will be performing at the pinetum near Goudhurst in the summer as one of an increasing number of acts playing the forest; income from ticket sales will be spent on improving forests for both people and wildlife. Tickets on sale now at www.Bedgeburypinetum.org.uk.



Choirs young and old(er) Charity show

**Holy Trinity Church,
Broadstairs**

Sunday, December 11, 2.30pm
01843 867 570

THERE are still tickets left for the Thanet Male Voice Choir's annual charity Christmas concert in Broadstairs. This is the 15th year and this term the group will be supporting the Demelza Hospice Care For Children charity with the proceeds from the show.

As in previous years the wonderful choir from Upton junior school will be making a guest appearance and are being joined by the Proteus Brass Ensemble, who, in addition to their solo spots, will accompany the community carol-singing. Of course, there will be the usual visit from Father Christmas and a special guest. Tickets cost £7 and are available at Terence Painter Properties in Broadstairs high street or from Richard Aslet on raslet@talktalk.net.



Dirty Dancing hits the stage Sexiest songs

The Orchard Theatre, Dartford

Saturday, January 14
01322 220 000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

HAVE the time of your life at the new stage spectacular featuring all the hits from one of the biggest dance movies of all time. *Dirty Dancing* is coming

to Dartford with producer Michael Taylor, who said: "It's the sexiest song-and-dance sensation of 2011, presented by an all-star cast of West End performers. "Celebrated film *Dirty Dancing* boasted the greatest movie soundtrack of all time." Songs include *She's Like The Wind*, *Big Girls Don't Cry*, *Hey Baby*, *Wipeout*, *Do You Love Me*, *Be My Baby*, *Hungry Eyes* and, of course, the Oscar-winning (*I've Had*) *The Time of My Life*. Tickets for the classic 80s show are on sale now.



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STAGE & ARTS

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Snow White

Churchill Theatre, Bromley
Throughout December
08448 717620
www.atgtickets.com/bromley

THIS year, the Churchill Theatre's festive treat Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs stars Blue Peter presenter Barney Harwood, actress Patsy Kensit, EastEnders' lout David Spinx and I'd Do Anything runner-up Sarah Lark.

With a fantastic set, special effects and glitzy costumes, the Churchill's pantomimes have bagged high praise in the last few years, and with the stars on show again this year you can expect more jollity. Join Snow White as she runs away from the Wicked Queen and stumbles across seven unlikely friends. Will the Wicked Queen find her? Will Snow White find her Prince Charming? There's only one way to find out... ask the blooming mirror. Tickets are on sale now; for times, visit the website.

Is this the real Buddy Holly?
Legendary look

The Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Thursday, February 23
01322 220 000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

TALENTED East Anglian singer and musician Marc Robinson is such a convincing Buddy Holly look-alike that not a single person who saw his hit film Telstar twigged that

his picture rather than Buddy's is used throughout the film. Photographs of Marc are used whenever an image of Buddy appears in the film, which features Academy Award-winner Kevin Spacey. Marc has spent 20 years perfecting the sound of Buddy Holly, assembling a band reminiscent of The Crickets in their heyday for his touring stage show Buddy Holly – A Legend Reborn. Last year the group played a UK tour commemorating the 50th anniversary of Buddy's death. Tickets cost £22.50.

Join Ben Mills
Party with our
X Factor man

Kings Hall, Herne Bay
Saturday, December 31
www.thekingshall.com
01227 787787

KENT X Factor star Ben Mills is the special guest entertainer at the New Year's Eve party in Herne Bay's Kings Hall. Along with his band, a local

boy band will entertain guests long into the night, with resident DJs providing some cracking tunes. There will be fun for the whole family, with cabaret-style seating and a dance floor to welcome in the new year. The bar will be open for refreshments until 12.30am and there will be snacks available to buy. Tickets cost £20 for adults and £10 for under-12s; doors open at 8pm. Ben has two 45-minute sets, from 9pm-9.45pm and 10.15pm-11pm.

Just for Rizzle Kicks
Mix the pop and hip-hop

Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone
Tickets on sale now
0844 8713015
www.leascliffhall.co.uk

HIP-HOP pop duo the Rizzle Kicks are coming to Folkestone in May 2012. The pair – Harley Alexander-Sule and Jordan Stephens – are being hailed as two of the most exciting young talents to emerge in 2011, with their debut single Down With The Trumpets selling more than 250,000 copies. They have already been nominated for three MOBO awards and featured on the No 1 single Heart Skips A Beat by Olly Murs. Their debut album, Stereo Typical, has been described as a mixture of pop and old-school hip-hop. Tickets for what is sure to be a popular gig are on sale now priced at £13.50.

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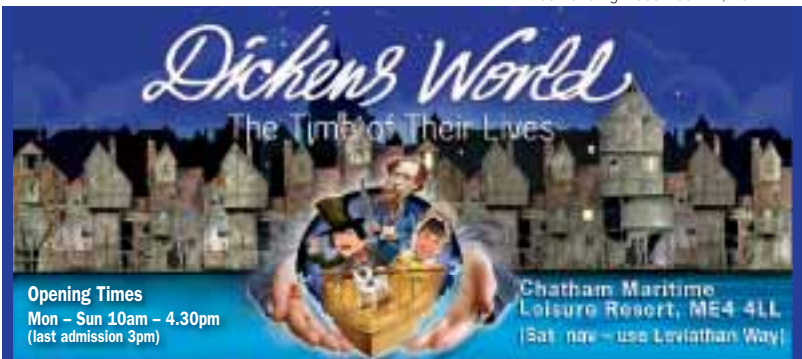


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DICKENS WORLD EVENTS



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BRITANNIA THEATRE EVENTS



Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

From Saturday 3rd December to Friday 30th December

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Join us to see in the New Year 2012 at Porters Bar! Party starts from 8pm

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- Delicious curry buffet • Indoor Snow Fall to the sounds of Big Ben in the Dickens World Court Yard at Mid Night
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Casino Games, DJ until 2am.
£75.00 per adult. Over 18's only.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Porters NYE Party with Curry Buffet & Disco - £25.00
The Valentine Lovers Party Night with Hot Chocolate Performing Live - Fri 10th Feb - £25.00
Time for Tea Music Hall Sensation - Wednesday 22nd February 2012
£5.00 including Cream Tea, Scone & Cucumber Sandwiches

DICKENS BICENTENARY YEAR 2012

Celebrating Dickens - Tuesday 7th February 2012
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SENIOR SCREEN A Dolphin's Tale (12A)
NEWBIES New Year's Eve (12A)
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HOMES

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Council gives permission for new homes development in borough

PLANNING permission has been granted by Swale Borough Council for 11 new homes at Garnett Cottage, School Lane, Lower Halstow.

The homes are to be built by Kent developer Hillreed Homes, and construction is expected to start in the spring of 2012.

There will be a choice of homes, comprising four three-bedroom semi-detached houses, six four-bedroom detached homes (all of a different design and layout) and a three-bedroom detached house.

"We are offering a wide choice of homes, with

eight different house types, so there really will be something for everyone", said Jo Richards, marketing and corporate manager at Hillreed Homes.

"There is a shortage of homes in the South East, as has been mentioned on the news many times in recent months.

"While this is not a large-scale development, we feel that it does offer what people want: quality homes on select developments in areas with good communications, schooling, shopping and recreational facilities."

Affordable housing deal to boost construction in Kent

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE construction industry in Kent is set for a boost after the announcement of a four-year agreement between the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and Sanctuary Group.

Following a cash injection of more than £14 million from the HCA, Sanctuary will invest £100m in the East and South East, constructing some 750 affordable homes for those on the housing-needs list and subsequently creating job and training opportunities. Kent has been earmarked for 208 of the new homes.

Sanctuary will use the HCA's considerable cash injection to deliver a range of rented and shared-ownership accommodation to meet locally-identified needs and priorities, including extra care apartments, supported schemes, rural housing and large family homes.

The agreement forms part of the HCA's Affordable Homes Programme, which is set to deliver 80,000 new affordable homes across England by 2015.

HCA executive director Terry Fuller said: "The HCA is delighted the Sanctuary Group has agreed a contract to deliver a large number of new affordable homes in the area.

"We will be working closely with all our partners delivering homes to ensure they meet the needs of local people."

Peter Martin, Sanctuary Group director for



START-UP: Kent is to get 208 affordable homes

development, said: "We are delighted with this allocation from the HCA, which will allow us to deliver much-needed affordable homes for local people. With housing waiting lists at an all-time high, we aim to start building at the earliest opportunity."

Across the HCA's East and South East operating area, the HCA is investing more than £229m to deliver about 14,000 homes through the Affordable Homes Programme over the next four years.

The programme is being delivered alongside the HCA's work with local authorities to support priority projects and the Economic Assets Programme, which has been set up to manage the disposal of assets transferred from Regional Development Agencies.

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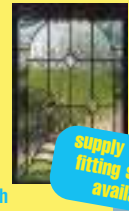
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STAR TURN:

Range Rover's new Evoque was voted Top Gear's Car of the Year and received lavish praise from the show's controversial star Jeremy Clarkson

New Range Rover evokes praise from Top Gear star

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

CONTROVERSIAL motoring guru Jeremy Clarkson made headlines with his views on the public sector strike, but he was on more familiar ground shortly afterwards for his verdict on the new Range Rover Evoque.

Land Rover's new baby had just won the Top Gear Car of the Year awards outright as well as the SUV section, with TV star Clarkson then declaring it was his favourite new car of the year:

"There have been many great cars launched over the last 12 months... but these are just one-trick ponies. The Evoque is more than that.

"It's a pony that is also a racehorse, a shire horse, a dray horse, a show jumper and an easy rosette-winner in the dressage competition. It's brilliant. And it's the Top Gear Car of the Year."

The Evoque beat stiff competition from the BMW 1 Series M hot hatch, the McLaren MP4 12c and Ferrari FF supercars, and the VW Up! and Kia Picanto small hatchbacks to scoop the overall car of the year title.

To celebrate the award, BBC Top Gear Magazine took a Range Rover Evoque on an African adventure through the deserts and

RANGE ROVER EVOQUE

Price:
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to £39,995

Driving appeal:
★★★★

Image:
★★★★

Space:
★★★★

Value:
★★★★

Running costs:
★★★★

Reliability:
★★★★

How green?:
★★★★

Best rival:
Audi Q5

mountain passes of Morocco to test its all-round capability and performance.

The mag's editor-in-chief Charlie Turner said: "Judging the Top Gear Magazine cars of the year takes a lot of time, coffee and shouting.

"But, strangely, when it came to choosing the overall winner, the yelling softened to agreement. Universal approval from the most opinionated minds in the industry is almost unheard of. Which gives you some idea of just how good the Range Rover Evoque, Top Gear's 2011 Car of the Year, really is."

The Range Rover Evoque has been on sale in the UK since September, and is available as a five door or coupé, with a number of engine and transmission combinations and a high level of personalisation/customisation with three distinct design themes and many options, accessories and colour choice.

Industry recognition has also been impressive: Euro NCAP has awarded its maximum five-star safety rating, while valuation gurus at Glass's and CAP have predicted outstanding residuals when the car hits the used car market.

Interestingly, the Evoque five-door is the cheapest way into the newcomer – prices start at £27,955, while coupé prices are from £28,950.

.. and Kia comes up trumps with double triumph

KOREAN marque Kia and its design chief Peter Schreyer landed double honours in the BBC Top Gear Magazine Awards 2011.

Kia's Picanto city car (from £7,795) was named Bargain of the Year and Schreyer (pictured) was selected as one of the Men of the Year.

The Picanto has won many awards since launch in June, and Top Gear said: "Finally, here's a Korean supermini that you might choose over, say, a Fiat 500.

"You want a bargain? The car we have here is a touch over 10 grand, but you can have one for under eight. That's two grand less than the cheapest Cinquecento (500) and, for our money, the better car.

"This is the Picanto, a fluorescent metaphor for South Korea's journey from the havoc of wartime to economic enormity.

"A prime example of how this place is spooking big businesses, not just

with cheap substitutes, but with properly desirable stuff, from smartphones to tellies to cars."

Meanwhile, Peter Schreyer – who designed the original Audi TT – was lauded for heading the Kia team behind the Picanto's strong identity and other Kia eye-catchers such as the Soul crossover, Sportage SUV and forthcoming Optima family model.

Top Gear said: "Good design is basically about creating products people want to buy. Peter Schreyer has presided

over that process at Kia with impressive fortitude and skill."

Schreyer responded by saying: "I am hugely honoured by BBC Top Gear's generosity both to me and, more importantly, to our Picanto.

"I have said before it is incredibly rare for a designer to be given a clean sheet of paper when joining a company – but I think with this award, the bravery of that decision has clearly paid off."



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All prices include first registration fee and road fund licence. Micra shown has metallic paint at £430 inc. VAT. Fuel consumption and mpg based on a combined cycle. Information correct at time of going to print. Model shown is the Micra 1.2 DIG-S Tekna priced at £13,650 and is for illustrative purposes only. Subject to availability. Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd, The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 9YS.

Based on official VCA figures for New Micra 1.2 DIG-S Acenta/Tekna: 15.2 mpg, 41 litres per tank. Fuel consumption figures for Nissan Micra DIG-S Range: URBAN 47.9-56.5mpg (5.9-5.0L/100km), EXTRA URBAN 62.8-78.5mpg (4.5-3.6L/100km), COMBINED 56.5-68.9mpg (5.0-4.1L/100km) CO₂ emissions 115-95g/km.

MOTORING

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Swedish mission to Mars

By Sam Davison

editorial@archant.co.uk

DON'T get me wrong, I'm all in favour of eco-friendly cars.

But I sometimes feel that, while boasting of how low the CO₂ emissions, fuel consumption and tax penalties are, manufacturers forget that you must live with the car.

So I admit to some concern when one of Volvo's lean and green DRIVE models arrived for our test wearing the tagline, "119g/km CO₂ emissions and 929 miles on one tank" on its flanks.

All lovely and eco, but what must you put up with to get such laudable environmental plaudits?

Usually it's suspect handling on fuel-saving tyres and gear ratios biased unrealistically towards the same end.

However, I was pleasantly surprised by our sleek looking V60 estate DRIVE. It looks like brasher models in the line-up, but cannot match them for sharpness or performance, yet Volvo has done a good job in cutting down on the compromises normally made in order to don the green halo.

A key point for me as I drove car one morning from one side of Kent to the other, was the effortless comfort the car offers.

It makes you think that if you are going to embark on the motoring equivalent of a mission to Mars – making use of that phenomenal 900-plus miles range – then this is the car to travel in.

Like the spacecraft you would need for the Mars trip, the DRIVE's 1,560cc 114bhp diesel has fairly leisurely acceleration to its cruising speed, but once there it gobbles up the miles, smoothly, efficiently and frugally, aided and abetted by typically well-designed and supportive seats.

With CO₂ emissions of just 119 g/km it also

VOLVO V60 DRIVE SE START/STOP: PRICE £26,770

FACT FILE



Image: ★★★★★
Space: ★★★★★
Value: ★★★★★
Running costs: ★★★★★
Reliability: ★★★★★
How green?: ★★★★★
Road tax: £30/year
Best rival: Audi A4 Avant
Kent dealers:
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FEELGOOD FACTOR:
 Volvo's V60 DRIVE has an impressive eco resume and offers the versatility you would expect from the Swedish carmaker

qualifies for zero road tax in year one and just £30/year thereafter – some superminis don't offer that.

Apart from its green credentials, the Volvo also feels well screwed together and justifies its premium status, tackling rivals like the Audi A4 Avant and BMW 3-Series Touring.

It cuts a dash too, with clever design giving it a fastback rather than an estate car look.

Closer inspection reveals an optical illusion distracting from a high roof that enables the car to perform like a traditional Volvo load-lugger.

You can't have it all with a roofline like that though, so rear headroom will be a beef for taller people, while the boot does lose out a bit to some rivals.

But there is loads of the versatility you expect from the Swedish marque; all three back seats can be raised and flattened independently, with the middle one folding down as a 'ski slot' for the run to the Alps or that awkward bit of 'two be two' timber from B&Q.

The logically-arranged dashboard is typical Volvo, with idiot-proof heating and ventilation controls using the now familiar outline of a human body to help you decide where you want the air to be directed.

There is a decent screen in the dash to allow easy control of media, sat nav and so on, though there are also handy switches for the cruise control, sounds etc on the steering wheel.

The quality and apparent durability of everything to hand is top notch and enlivened by chrome highlights and brushed alloy.

The six-speed gearbox feels light and easy and the start/stop system is one of the best I've encountered, though some might criticise the steering for being too light even though this car that won't be bought to be hurtled into corners.

Hot news for some will be that Volvo's Powershift dual-clutch automatic gearbox is also now available on the V60 DRIVE, delivering the same fuel economy and emissions as the class-leading manual version.

First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS



Scenic's route into new year

RENAULT has facelifted its Scenic and Grand Scenic MPV family for 2012.

Due in February, they have a revised nose, with gloss black and chrome detailing, plus LED daytime running lights and new rear lights. There are two new eco-friendly engines: a turbo-charged 1.2 TCe 115 petrol and 1.5 dCi 110 Stop/Start diesel – averaging almost 70mpg.



Avensis takes refined stance

TOYOTA has a revised Avensis line-up on sale now, with the big-selling 2.0 D-4D diesel attracting the minimum payable £30/year road tax – zero in year one – due to low emissions. It should average more than 60mpg.

Toyota insists the car now also delivers a better driver experience, more ride comfort and lower ownership costs.



Insignia given diesel 'punch'

VAUXHALL'S most powerful diesel engine is now available in the Insignia, producing 195PS (192bhp) but with CO₂ emissions as low as 129g/km.

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*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech models. **Finance Deposit Allowance not available on Astra GTC. Model shown is New Astra SRI 5dr. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc. PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-2k (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 19 December 2011. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply.

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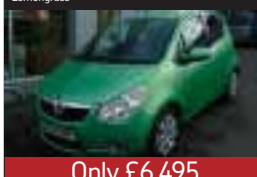
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Sport

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CRICKET



REVAMP: The St Lawrence Ground's floodlights

Kent weigh up World Cup bid

SERIOUS consideration is being given at Kent to submit a bid to host World Cup games when the 2019 tournament is held in England.

The comprehensive redevelopment which has taken place over the last 15 months has seen the St Lawrence Ground given a 'C' rating by the England and Wales Cricket Board. It means the club's Canterbury headquarters are eligible to host neutral One Day Internationals.

Kent decided against attempting to gain a higher category, which would see them able to host higher profile games, due to the level of investment required and the intensity of competition with other grounds in the country. Instead the ground has the room to accommodate extra seating temporarily for big games.

St Lawrence hosted England's group game against Kenya in 1999, the last time the World Cup was held in this country and Jamie Clifford, Kent's chief executive, is keen to be part of the competition again when bidding opens.

He said: "With these grass banks we have the ability to increase our capacity to secure games. The World Cup is coming to England so the objective must be to get some games during that, in terms of our international aspirations.

"I think with our general ground improvements and the ability to bring in extra seating I'm hopeful we could mount a serious bid to try and get some World Cup games."

The last One Day International held at the ground was in 2005, when Australia beat Bangladesh.

GOLF

Tour return within reach for revitalised Barham

By David Pritchard

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THE tale of a sportsman overcoming cancer and returning to elite competition sounds like the plot of a Hollywood film, but Benn Barham is looking to finish a turbulent 15 months with a real life happy ending next week.

Last October, the Tenterden professional visited the doctor complaining of stomach pains, which turned out to be a kidney tumour. Fortunately detected early, it was quickly removed and followed by a lengthy period of recuperation.

Remarkably, Barham was back competing on the European Challenge Tour by April. The 35-year-old immediately found consistency, making 15 of his first 16 cuts on tour. Despite missing the opening months of the season a place in the top 20 on the order of merit, which guarantees a European Tour card for next year, looked a genuine possibility.

But the schedule had taken its toll and the results dried up in the final weeks of the season for a tiring Barham, who slipped out of contention and finished the year 51st in the rankings.

It left him facing qualifying school as the only avenue left to regain a place on the European Tour.

The multi-layered process is notoriously competitive, but Barham went to Spain last week for the penultimate round just after receiving the results of a scan 12 months on from the operation.

"I had the results for it on the Wednesday before I left. It was a nice little boost, the fact that everything's OK and going well," he said.

"It's routine, every six months, but as the date of the result gets closer and closer you can't help thinking, what if it's not good news? That's only human to worry a little bit, so it was a relief to get the good news."

It may not have been ideal preparation, but



Pictures: ADY KERRY/NIKE



MIXED: Benn Barham (left) could secure his tour card next week, but Matt Haines missed out

Barham played superbly, overcoming a heavy cold to finish fourth in his section at Las Colinas in Alicante.

It comfortably guaranteed passage to the final stage, which begins on Saturday, with more than 150 players battling it out over six rounds. If Barham is in the top 30 on Thursday afternoon he will be back in the big time.

The prize on offer - and the price of failure - can make even experienced campaigners buckle, but the Chart Hills golfer is well placed to offer a sense of perspective.

He said: "A lot of people tag it as a high pressure situation because of what's at stake but I have to be honest, after the year I've had it's not that much of a big deal.

"I'm playing good golf and I'm enjoying it, I just hope my body can stand up to it."

Deal's Francis McGuirk, who qualified for

The Open Championship at Sandwich this year, and Maidstone's Matt Ford are also in the field in Girona after negotiating the second stage last weekend.

A hat-trick of Kent golfers fell by the wayside at the penultimate hurdle. Todd Adcock, from Tunbridge Wells, and Headcorn's Jason Barnes missed out, along with Matt Haines, who endured an underwhelming season on the European Tour this year.

The Rochester & Cobham Park golfer, 22, vowed to learn from his mistakes and come back stronger next season on the Challenge Tour, where he enjoyed success after turning professional last year.

He said: "I know I can compete at this level. I will certainly work hard over the winter to make sure I keep improving and get back on the European Tour in 2013 for good."

ATHLETICS

Overall thrilled as marathon switch pays off in style with Olympic place

A DISTANCE runner is thanking his decision to step up to the marathon this year after becoming one of the first British athletes to be selected for the London Olympics.

Disappointing performances in training for the 5,000 metres forced Scott Overall to re-evaluate his position in May.

The Blackheath & Bromley Harrier decided to try the marathon, adapting with remarkable ease. On his debut over the 26.2-mile Berlin course in September he finished in just under two hours 11 minutes, the fastest time by a British runner this year and inside the Olympic qualifying standard.

It ensured Overall was duly confirmed in the British team for next August this week. The delighted 28-year-old admitted



LONG RUN: Scott Overall

the thought of making the Olympic squad would have been very unlikely 12 months ago.

"I would've said 'what do I need to do?', he said. "I look back and think I've always had good results on the road. A few people were trying to nudge

me towards the marathon about 18 months ago.

"Even in hindsight I don't think I would've done it any sooner because I wanted to see what I could do on the track. I'm very grateful I switched to the marathon, though."

Overall does not plan to run the full distance competitively again until the Games, instead focusing training on half marathons and staying clear of injuries.

He said: "It's a fantastic achievement and I'm really happy but at the same time there's a long way to go and a lot of training to be done between now and then. It's important to be focused so I'm on the start line in London fit and healthy."

MOTORSPORT

IndyCar contract expected shortly as Conway considers options for 2012

MIKE Conway is optimistic of signing a new deal in the next fortnight which will keep him in IndyCar next year.

His third season in the series began with great promise, including a maiden victory at Long Beach in April, but a failure to qualify for the Indianapolis 500 a month later began a disappointing slide down to finish 17th in the standings.

Despite the issues, the 28-year-old has had interest from several teams, including Andretti Autosport, for whom he drove this year.

The Sevenoaks driver is pleased to have options on the table and is hoping to have a deal wrapped up this month.

He said: "It's looking OK, a lot better than last winter when we had to wait until Feb-



IN DEMAND: Mike Conway

ruary. It would be nice to go into Christmas knowing what you'll be doing next year.

"We are talking to Andretti and also keeping our options open in other areas.

"I love IndyCar racing and living over there. I do miss a lot of

the European circuits and the technology being used, but I'm enjoying it [in the States] and hopefully can stay there."

Conway was awarded the Innes Ireland Trophy at the British Racing Drivers' Club Awards this week. The prize, won by Sir Stirling Moss last year, recognised his courage and sportsmanship in battling back from an horrific crash in May 2010.

He went on to take part in a charity karting race alongside Jensen Button and David Coulthard held in memory of Dan Wheldon, the British driver killed in an IndyCar race in Las Vegas two months ago.

Conway said: "It was sad to have the event in the first place but it was a great way to raise money."

Sport

For more sports news and pictures go to www.kentsport.co.uk

FOOTBALL

FA Cup draw sets up meeting of Gills managers past and present

By David Pritchard

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THERE may be four weeks until Stoke City arrive at Priestfield in the FA Cup but Gillingham manager Andy Hessenthaler is already looking forward to testing his wits against one of the biggest influences on his managerial career.

The visit of a top flight team is the aim for most clubs in the third round, sprinkling some Premier League stardust on the bread and butter of the league programme.

Stoke's visit has added spice for the Gills, with former Priestfield boss Tony Pulis returning in charge of the Potters.

Hessenthaler played under the Welshman at the Gills for three seasons and the meticulous attention to detail from the era endured.

"Tony had a big impact on me," he said. "As a manager now you go back over the ones you played under and Tony was very organised.

"On the training ground there were no stones unturned, he went through every player you'd be playing against in the build-up to a game. Everything was well organised. I've worked with good coaches and for me he was up there, without a doubt.

"Tony was so organised that if there was a mistake in a game the player had no excuse be-

cause you had been told about it and it had been drummed into you all week."

The game is expected to sell-out Priestfield, just as supporters crammed into the ground three seasons ago for the club's most recent third round tie against Premier League opposition. The 2-1 defeat to Aston Villa was shown live on television, but despite the Gills knocking out League One sides Bournemouth and Leyton Orient to boost hopes of a giant-killing, the Stoke game was not chosen by broadcasters this week as one of their selected games.

The decision means the Gills miss out on a six-figure sum, but with a full house and prize money from the previous rounds it remains a lucrative run for the club, even if Stoke progress.

Hessenthaler is hopeful some of the money will be made available to spend on strengthening the squad when the transfer window opens in January, improving the chances of winning promotion from League Two.

A striker remains top of his wish-list and the most obvious target is Jo Kuffour, who has scored five goals in eight league starts for the side on loan from Bristol Rovers.

The 30-year-old's deal expires at the end of the month, but Hessenthaler is keen on se-



DILIGENT: Tony Pulis (left) detailed approach to games at Priestfield left a lasting impact on Andy Hessenthaler

Pictures: PAUL CHESTERTON/ADY KERRY



curing a long-term deal for the former Arsenal trainee.

He said: "Jo would be available for the [Stoke] game if we could get a deal done in January, which would be tremendous. The chairman will talk and have negotiations with them pretty soon.

"I think Jo's been terrific. Every game he's looked bright. Him and [Danny] Kedwell

have a really good understanding and respect each other, so I think they will be a really good force if we can keep Jo, not just for this season but beyond."

Tickets for the game go on sale on Monday to season ticket holders and fans interested in going to next weekend's game against Bristol Rovers. The remainder will be available from December 21.

RUGBY UNION

Pratt rejects thoughts of perfect year

TALK of going through the league season unbeaten has been dismissed by Canterbury head coach Andy Pratt.

The city club made it 12 wins out of 12 last weekend and with nearest rivals Tonbridge Juddians slipping up they went into this Saturday's fixture nine points clear in National 3 London & SE.

Averaging more than 40 points a game so far, Canterbury are on course to bounce straight back after suffering the pain of relegation from National 2 South last season.

Pratt has been delighted with the way the squad have rediscovered their belief and confidence since the summer, but played down the significance of their 100 per cent record.

He said: "If I start talking about going unbeaten that's the moment we'll lose. We have talked about having some humility and respect for our opponents



Picture: IGOR KUPCO

RIVALS: Canterbury take on TJs

and hopefully towards the end of the season our fate is in our own hands.

"The main thing is ideally we get the promotion spot, if not that then the play-off place."

The battle between Canterbury and an ambitious TJs side has lent the title chase an extra edge. The two sides meet at Merton Lane for a key clash next Saturday and Pratt has enjoyed the added local dimension.

He said: "With Gravesend in the division as well it's nice to have a couple of derbies. It's great, TJs have done really well considering they only came up this season."

FOOTBALL

Wembley dream still alive for Bay and Wells

THE Kent League will have two representatives in the last 32 of the FA Vase next month after Herne Bay joined Tunbridge Wells in the fourth round.

Both needed to negotiate replays in midweek, with Bay finally seeing off Hanworth Villa 3-1 after extra time. Wells beat fellow Kent League side VCD Athletic 2-0 at Culverden.

It means the pair are four rounds from the final at Wembley, where Deal Town memorably won in 2000.

Bay, unbeaten in the league, face the long trip to Newcastle Benfield, but manager Simon Halsey is relishing the tie.

He said: "Our record speaks for itself and I want the players to experience travelling around the country."

Wells, who have never been



Picture: IGOR KUPCO

THROUGH: Herne Bay

beyond the fourth round, have the luxury of a home draw against Cambridgeshire's St Ives Town.

Culverden boss Martin Larkin said: "The challenge for the squad now is can they be the ones people talk about when they look back in the future."

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL FOCUS

WITH FRED ATKINS

The value of keeping quiet

“ONE of the best lines in the film American Beauty comes when Kevin Spacey is asked to describe what he does during a typical working day.

"My job basically consists of masking my contempt for ..." he replies, before adding some colourful terminology we sadly can't reprint in a family publication.

The ability to mask contempt for the imbecilic is a profoundly underrated quality and is essential in the football industry.

At Princes Park last Saturday there was an "incident" during Dartford's 3-1 win over Dover Athletic, when the visiting entourage were abused by a small knot of away supporters.

It was mentioned on BBC Radio Kent and a couple of websites and while it didn't sound pleasant, worse happens every week at grounds across the world.

The overwhelming majority of supporters from both sides generally created a better atmosphere than you'd ever get at a segregated Football League venue, so the wisest course of action would have been to ignore the muppets and start worrying about the next match.

There were around 150 Dover fans at Princes Park and it's statistically impossible to pick 150 people at random without selecting at least a couple of idiots, so this was no big deal, or at least it wasn't until Dover posted a lengthy statement on their official website which revealed how angry chairman Jim Parmenter was with the "torrent of verbal abuse" he'd received.

He was particularly wounded by a comment that he was "in it for the money" and once again felt compelled to defend his record. Parmenter's use of the term "morons" was quite possibly accurate, but one of the few areas where his record might be questioned is in masking contempt for critics.

Somebody should have told him to keep his counsel, instead of helping him pour oil on a fire that was nearly out. When he appointed Nicky Forster as manager just two months ago I wrote in this column: "will the new manager get a season's grace before another 'vocal minority' start calling for his head after a few bad results?"

Forster has now had a few bad results and Parmenter's response was to write: "The slating of players on the websites breeds lack of confidence on the pitch and lots of people delight in the negativity inbuilt within the psyche of too many of our supporters which, if not curbed, will eventually destroy the club."

That sounded a bit melodramatic, but he at least ended on a positive note by paraphrasing JFK: "Think, 'what can I do for my club.'"

Parmenter could learn from Kennedy himself. A chairman needs to be a politician and a statesman, not someone who gets defensive at the first sign of criticism. He needs to learn to mask his contempt and one final thing, steering clear of downtown Dallas wouldn't be a bad idea.



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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 14.4 (19.6)-67.3 (4.2), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3)-91.1 (3.1), Combined: 20.6 (13.7)-80.7 (3.5). CO₂ emissions: 324-94g/km.

*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech models. **Finance Deposit Allowance not available on Astra GTC. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 19 December 2011. †Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. ^Customer deposit shown after deduction of Vauxhall contribution.